World mourns Iranian twins as ethics debate rages

Story below, Col. 2

P54-M Superlotto winner flees home

MAHIRAP MAGING MAYAMAN...DUMADAMI ANG KAIBIGAN!

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Money can't buy peace of mind.

A *chorizo* (sausage) maker and his wife realized this after win-

P54M/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Antidrug spray paint drive back** ACROSS /A11
- **Abbas offers to quit as Palestinian PM** WORLD /A10
- **RP raises $750M from bond sale** BUSINESS /B1

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, July 10, 2003 ★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 212 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Sweatshop to settle with sleepless staff

Sto. Tomas calls for end to factories like Anvil

By Luige del Puerto
Metro

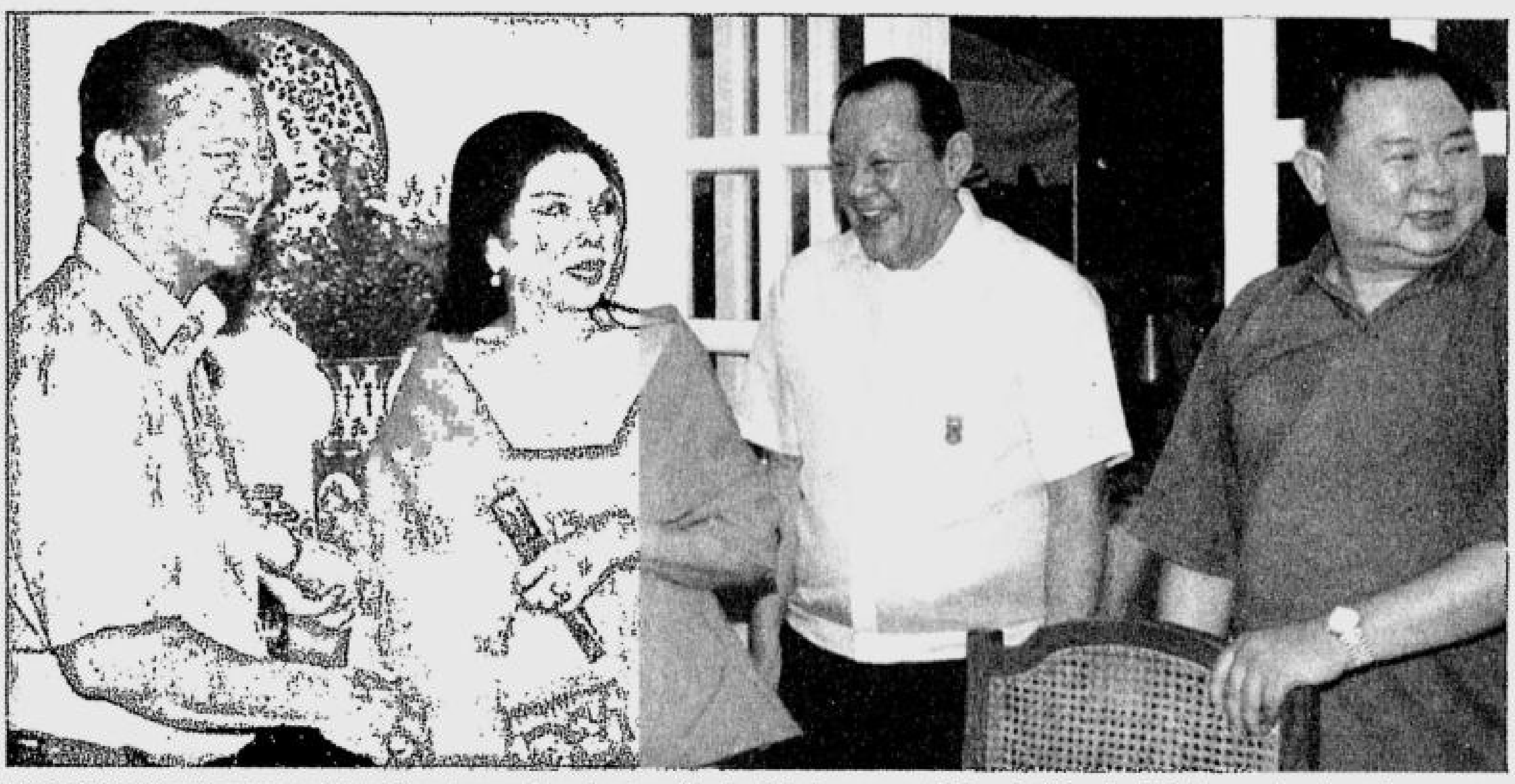
GARMENT factory Anvil Ensembles will move for a settlement regarding the P5.8 million in back wages and other benefits that the Department of Labor and Employment has ordered it to pay its workers.

The company will file a motion for reconsideration, "but only so we can fix the figure given by the DOLE," Anvil public relations officer Chris Cahilig said yesterday. "[But] we will opt for a settlement. We will abide by whatever the government decides."

Under the compliance order that the DOLE issued last week in response to the complaint filed in January by its workers, Anvil has until today to either pay up or seek reconsideration of the order.

Cahilig contended that the DOLE list of Anvil workers who should receive back wages and other benefits was outdated. He said those listed should not receive "uniform payment" because some were no longer working for

SWEATSHOP/A4



BLOOD'S thicker than water. Erstwhile estranged cousins Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco laugh as they greet socialite Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas at Pastor "Boy" Saycon's (right) birthday celebration. The party was held at Saycon's residence at Ayala Alabang.

BOY CABRIDO

Guess who came to Boy Saycon's dinner?

By Christian V. Esguerra and Fe Zamora, *Inq7*

GOING by what transpired during Pastor "Boy" Saycon's 52nd birthday celebration on Tuesday, the political animosity within the influential Cojuangco clan may indeed be over.

First cousins Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and Jose "Peping" Cojuangco embraced each other that night in what was another proof that they had long buried the hatchet, said Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs.

"It was more than cordial, it was in fact warm," Saycon told the INQUIRER, recounting the cousins' gestures.

Danding, a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, arrived at Saycon's party in Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa, at around 9 p.m., the celebrator said.

Upon seeing his cousin Peping, Danding immediately approached the former Tarlac congressman, embraced him, then sat beside him at the dinner table, Saycon said.

On hand to witness the warm gesture were Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Sen. Loren Legarda, and a handful of friends from politics, media and business.

The atmosphere was light, he said, all throughout even if guests failed to avoid talking about Danding's reported plans to seek the presidency in 2004.

GUESS/A15

GMA now thinking of running —Alvarez

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

NOW it's the spokesperson of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo will likely change her mind and run in the elections next year.

"I think she is now entertaining the thought [of running]. She has not closed the door, and the possibility is she will change her mind," Heherson Alvarez, also the President's adviser on overseas Filipinos, said in a phone interview yesterday with the INQUIRER.

Alvarez said one indication of the likelihood was the disclosure of the President's husband Juan Miguel Arroyo of conversations with prominent figures, like Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, in which she was urged to run. Arroyo issued a statement last week quoting Sin as saying: "Tell Gloria I insist that she run."

"The First Gentleman is the person closest to her," Alvarez noted. "She has not stopped him from making the announcements, and so she has not sealed [her earlier decision not to run]."

Alvarez said that in making the disclosures, Arroyo was "opening the possibility" of his wife's turn-around on her dramatic declaration on Dec. 30 that she would not stand for election in May 2004.

A person close to the President, who requested anonymity, also earlier disclosed the alleged endorsements of a Macapagal candidacy by US President George W. Bush, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and South Korean President Roh Moon-hyun.

GMA/A16

Debate rages over separation surgery

SINGAPORE—The debate over whether he should have proceeded with the unprecedented surgery could rage forever, Dr. Keith Goh said after the deaths of the 29-year-old twin sisters, Laleh and Ladan Bijani.

"This decision of going ahead with surgery which seems so impossible to do was a very difficult one to make," said Goh, who led the team of 28 specialists and 100 assistants in the 50-hour-long operation.

"But having seen and understood how these girls have suffered over their last 29 years, I and many other world-renowned experts decided to contribute our time and skills to trying to give these girls some measure of a decent, normal life as we know it."

Dr. Benjamin Carson, the other lead surgeon who has separated three sets of twins fused at the head, agreed.

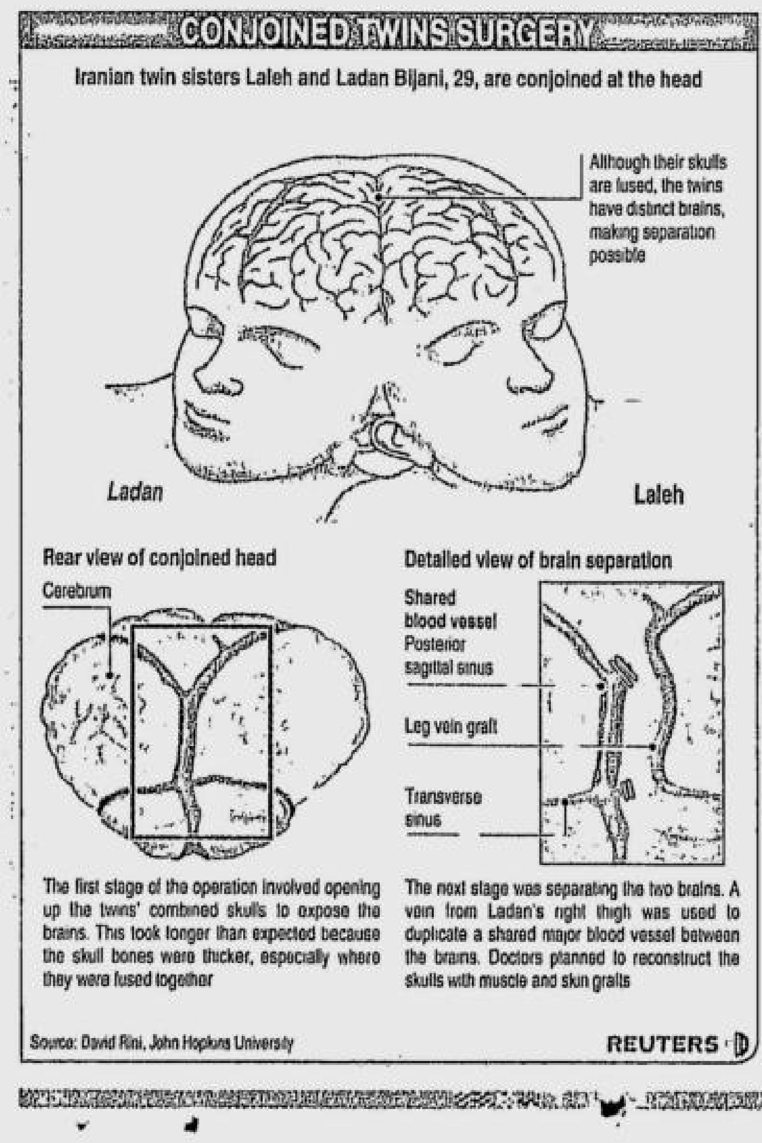
"These were individuals who were absolutely determined to be separated. The reason I felt compelled to become involved is because I wanted to make sure they had their best chance," said Carson, head of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.

Last-minute tests before the surgery revealed that the pressure inside the twins' brains was double what it should

DEBATE/A16

CONJOINED TWINS SURGERY

Iranian twin sisters Laleh and Ladan Bijani, 29, are conjoined at the head


Although their skulls are fused, the twins have distinct brains, making separation possible
Ladan
Laleh
Rear view of conjoined head
Cerebrum
Detailed view of brain separation
Shared blood vessel
Posterior sagittal sinus
Leg vein graft
Transverse sinus

The first stage of the operation involved opening up the twins' combined skulls to expose the brains. This took longer than expected because the skull bones were thicker, especially where they were fused together

The next stage was separating the two brains. A vein from Ladan's right thigh was used to duplicate a shared major blood vessel between the brains. Doctors planned to reconstruct the skulls with muscle and skin grafts

Source: David Rini, John Hopkins University

REUTERS

World mourns death of twins Ladan and Laleh

SINGAPORE—Fifty grueling hours into an unprecedented operation to separate adult twins conjoined at the head, Dr. Keith Goh's heart sank.

He was working furiously Tuesday to save Laleh Bijani, who began bleeding profusely the moment surgeons made the final cut to separate her from her sister, Ladan.

Gone was the sound of classical music that played the day before in the small, gleaming operating room crowded with doctors and assistants. The room was silent except for the surgeons' instructions and the beeps and pulses of the monitors.

Then Goh glanced over at Ladan. She was losing blood even faster. The 29-year-old Iranian twins died shortly later. Both were still under anesthesia.

"I was very saddened," said Goh, the lead surgeon. "I saw them struggling — of course at the same time we were struggling too. At least we helped them achieve their dream of being separated."

The story of the Iranian twins who died chasing a dream of living separate lives touched people around the world at a time when their homeland faced increasing isolation.

The 29-year-old law graduates showed a different side of Iran, a country that Washington has labeled part of an axis of evil, Iran's Ambassador to Indonesia Shaban Shahidi Moadob said.

WORLD/A16

MALAYSIA'S NO. 2
President Macapagal waits as Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi signs Malacañang guest book. ***(Story on Page A2.)***

PCPO/MALACANANG PHOTO

3 men behead old couple suspected of being 'aswang'

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A couple long suspected of being "*aswang*" were beheaded on Saturday inside their home in Cauayan town, Negros Occidental, allegedly to put an end to their "evil powers."

In Philippine folklore, an *aswang* is an evil creature that can assume different forms and harass people at night, especially pregnant women.

Police identified the fatalities as Generoso Casupong, 65, and wife Isabelita, 64, of Sitio Si-alay, Barangay Bulata, about 120 km south of here.

On Tuesday, police arrested three suspects—Eugenio Tanguar, 43; Carlito Hibolan, 28; and Rosendo Cabug-os, 30, who was the victims' son-in-law. The three are now detained at the Cauayan municipal jail pending the filing of murder charges.

3 MEN/A15

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/10/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

$50M FOR MINDANAO

US raises pledge for peace

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the United States has promised to provide more development funds for Mindanao if the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front forge a final peace agreement.

She said the US has pledged to give at least $30 million this year, another $20 million next year and "even more once the ink on the final peace agreement has dried."

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said yesterday that Washington was ready to help fund peace efforts in Mindanao and to bring in experienced US diplomats to help with talks with the MILF as part of its global effort to fight terrorism.

But the financial aid will only be made available if there is a final peace agreement, he said.

Ms Macapagal said that financial support from the US as well as corporate donors and the Philippines' official development partners "makes the search [for peace] easier."

She said that with the peace funds, the country's strategic partnership with the US has come full circle, "from an alliance against terrorism to an alliance for peace."

"This is part of the new perspective of political and economic security in the Asia Pacific that has emerged in the post-Iraq war period," the President said in a statement.

In an interview with dzRB radio, the government's chief negotiator Eduardo Ermita said he was hopeful that his rebel counterpart would realize that adequate funds would be made available to ensure that the MILF would meet its objective of improving the lives of Mindanao's people.

Ricciardone said the US, through the quasi-government US Institute for Peace, is prepared to "witness how the two parties will make commitments, increase confidence (in) each other and keep those commitments" and "underwrite peace and conditions that permit that."

He said the US role will be to "supplement, not to supplant" the efforts of Malaysia, which has taken the principal role in trying to bring the government and the MILF to the negotiating table.

He said the US Congress has already allocated $30 million "support the peace process in Mindanao."

The funds will be in addition to the $74 million development aid already provided this year through the US Agency for Development, more than half of which went to Mindanao.

But the aid "will only be available if there's peace, if there's an end to violence in the area," said Wendy Chamberlin, the USAID's assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East. *Gil C. Cabacungan and AP*

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

President Macapagal poses with business leaders during yesterday's opening of the three-day Corporate Social Responsibility Expo 2003 at the Philippine International Convention Center. Billed as the biggest showcase of corporate social responsibility, the expo is organized by the League of Corporate Foundations. In photo are (from left) Sandy Romualdez of the INQUIRER, Peter Garrucho of the Lopez Group (partly hidden), Evelyn del Rosario of PLDT, Rina Lopez-Bautista of Knowledge Channel, business tycoon Lucio Tan, Vivian Tan, Ed Chua of Shell, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Vicky Garchitorena, Ding Deles and President Macapagal.

GMA, Malaysian deputy PM discuss talks

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo held talks yesterday with Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to help jump-start peace negotiations with the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Badawi, who made a four-hour stopover in Manila en route to a three-day official visit to Japan and the Ukraine, did not speak to reporters after lunching with Ms Macapagal. He was accompanied by, among others, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar.

A Malaysian Embassy official said the lunch was at the invitation of Ms Macapagal and that no agenda was set.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said that Badawi had told the President that Malaysia was just "completing a required consultative process" before sending a monitoring team here that will monitor the ceasefire once the talks resume.

The President had invited Malaysia, which is helping to mediate the conflict, to lead a team comprising Islamic nations to the Philippines to monitor a ceasefire deal ahead of the prospective peace talks.

An initial pact was concluded last month in Kuala Lumpur to begin negotiations. But the process has been blocked by the Philippines' reluctance to lift arrest warrants and bounties on the heads of the MILF's top rebel negotiators.

Kuala Lumpur had previously insisted the lifting of the warrants and bounties was essential as part of "confidence building measures" to bring the two parties together.

The President emphasized to Badawi during their brief talks that she was prepared to lift the restrictions only if the MILF made a formal application in the courts, Ople told a press briefing.

He termed it as part of the "technical obstacles" to the peace deal.

"The Malaysian guests were informed by the President that the effect of these warrants can be suspended by the court, but first the MILF respondents through their lawyers should initiate the proceedings for a review so that the court can decide," Ople said.

The warrants against MILF chief Salamat Hashim and others were issued in connection with the deadly bombings in Mindanao this year. Only the courts can lift the warrants.

Ople said the President stressed that the courts were "beyond the reach" of the executive department. "All the government can do at this stage is to encourage the MILF leaders and advisers to initiate proceedings in court," Ople said.

He said that once the warrants were lifted, it would be easy for the President to recall the bounties put up for the capture of the MILF leaders.

The MILF has said that it would be premature for it to seek redress in the courts because of its longstanding principle of not recognizing the Philippine Constitution.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the MILF was standing by its earlier position that it would not petition the court to lift the warrants, arguing that it was the government that should do it. *Juliet Labog-Javellana, TJ Burgonio and AFP*

BI tells Ang to clarify citizenship

By Martin P. Marfil

THE BUREAU of Immigration has ordered presidential adviser Dante Ang to comment on allegations that he is an alien.

In a letter signed by, Special Prosecutor Jose Tria Jr., the bureau said that order was based on a letter complaint for deportation which was filed by lawyer Melanio Mauricio on Friday.

On that day, acting Immigration Commissioner Daniel Cueto told the *Inquirer* that his office was verifying Ang's citizenship.

Ang's travel information, on that day, showed that he was using a Philippine passport during his trips but Cueto said that he would also want to check their Alien Registration Division and see if Ang has an Alien Certificate of Registration.

The check was suppose to have been wrapped up on Monday.

It was not known what happened to the BID effort despite repeated calls to the office of Cueto and Tria whom their staffers said were "in conference."

An earlier report said that Ang drew the ire of the Supreme Court when he lashed out against the judiciary calling them "terrorists in robes."

The remarks came during a speech before members of the Philippine Constitutional Association on May.

On June 2, Mauricio filed a petition for indirect contempt against Ang for his speech before the Philconsa.

In his complaint, Mauricio noted, among others, that Ang was an "alien."

Abu leader hunted in Sultan Kudarat

TROOPS are combing a patch of coastline in Sultan Kudarat amid indications Abu Sayyaf rebels may have relocated there, the military said yesterday.

The mayor of Palimbang town alerted the authorities that the Abu Sayyaf's top leader, Khadaffy Janjalani and up to 30 armed followers had landed there aboard three boats last weekend, military vice chief of staff Lieutenant General Rodolfo Garcia told reporters.

"The report is credible," Garcia said, noting that the Palimbang mayor, Samrud Mamansual, was a former Muslim guerrilla leader.

The US government has offered a $5 million bounty for the capture of Janjalani and four other Abu Sayyaf rebel leaders in connection with the 2001 kidnappings of a group of tourists including US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Peru-born Californian Guillermo Sobero.

Martin Burnham and Sobero both died in captivity, while Gracia Burnham was rescued a year ago by Filipino troops, who had received training from US Special Forces military advisers deployed on the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Basilan island. *AFP*

Sabio twits Drilon on Charter change

BY INSISTING the President should stay out of Charter change, Senate President Franklin Drilon was berated for his "inaccurate and incomplete" study of legislative history by the head of the Palace-backed study group on Charter change.

Lawyer Camilo Sabio, former head of the Philippine Constitutional Association, said Drilon erred in saying that the move to amend the 1935 Constitution did not involve then President Ferdinand Marcos.

"I find it hard to believe that Senate President Franklin Drilon would say that President Marcos played no role in the process which led to the framing and ratification of the 1973 Constitution, the so-called Marcos Constitution," Sabio said in a statement yesterday.

In an INQUIRER story on July 7, Drilon disputed Sabio's claim that "under the Constitution, the President has no choice but to be involved in the process of Charter change."

Drilon insisted that "legislative history shows the President plays no role when it comes to amending the Constitution."

He said he checked legislative records and found that the joint resolution that Congress passed in 1967 calling for a constitutional convention "was not passed to then President (Marcos) for approval."

Drilon said Joint Resolution No. 2, adopted on March 16, 1967, was signed by then Senate President Gil Puyat and Speaker Jose B. Laurel and "became effective immediately."

Terror bomber may yet get his 'death wish'

By Philip C. Tubeza

EVEN if he had entered a guilty plea, confessed terrorist Muklis Yunos could still draw a death sentence, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said yesterday.

"The law is clear that murder is punishable by death," Zuño said.

He explained that although the courts usually look on a guilty plea as a mitigating circumstance so that convicts who plead guilty can expect lighter punishment, the case of Yunos and his co-accused was different because of the enormity of their alleged crime.

The guilty plea was likely to be overshadowed by the number of victims and the atrociousness of the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings, Zuño said.

Yunos pleaded guilty on Tuesday to the bombing of a Light Rail Transit coach and other mass transport targets that claimed 22 lives in December 2000.

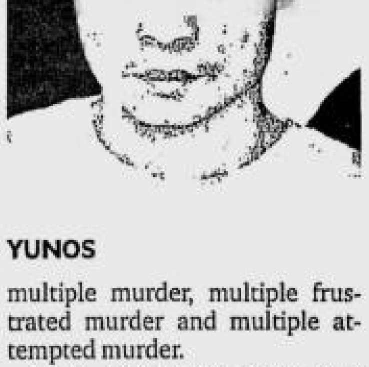
"We not only have the confession of the accused but other documents, witnesses and videotapes that would prove the charges against them," Zuño said.

He also agreed with the decision of Judge Lucia Purugganan to hold a trial despite Yunos' guilty plea.

"Of course, the judge must be satisfied that the accused is guilty beyond reasonable doubt before pronouncing sentence because this involves a capital offense," Zuño said.

Yunos and his 10 other co-accused have not been charged for four other bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000 because the justice department has yet to finish collecting the evidence.

They have been charged with multiple murder, multiple frustrated murder and multiple attempted murder.



YUNOS

State prosecutor Peter Ong said they face "multiple deaths" if convicted.

Besides Yunos, the other foreigners charged in the case are Indonesians Riduan "alias Hambali" Isamuddin and Fathur Roman al-Ghozi, and Malaysian Abubakar Bafana Faiz.

The three are alleged leaders of the Jemaah Islamiyah, believed to be the Southeast Asia unit of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network.

The justice department has also charged Alim Pangalian Solaiman, the alleged head of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's third field division.

Of the 11 accused, only Yunos and Al-Ghozi are in government custody. Faiz is detained in Singapore.

Al-Ghozi is already serving a 12-year prison term in the Philippines after he was convicted of illegal possession of explosives. *With a report from AFP*

Palace seeks 2004 budget of P836B

MALACAÑANG yesterday said that government agencies plan to spend a whopping P1.3 trillion next year or 60 percent more than the programmed spending for this year.

But presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the government was committed to trim down next year's budget to only P836 billion or just 4 percent over the P804 billion budget this year. Bunye could not explain why government agencies would need a hefty increase in their annual spending next year.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin was not surprised by the hefty spending request considering that last year's spending wish list reached P1.1 trillion.

"The government agencies normally ask for the moon but all of them know that these would be cut," Boncodin said.

She said the government would continue with its priority spending programs next year such as poverty alleviation, provision of basic services, agriculture development. She said the programmed spending for next year's elections have been fully funded and this should not make the budget any higher.

Boncodin said the government was aiming to maintain the budget deficit at 4.2 percent of gross domestic product or lower than the 4.7 percent level this year.

7 new party-list solons proclaimed today

By Martin P. Marfil

SEVEN new party-list representatives will be proclaimed today in simple ceremonies at the Commission on Elections.

Two of the seven will be returning representatives. They are Partido ng Manggagawa's Renato Magtubo and Abanse Pinay's Pat Sarenas.

Magtubo had served in the previous Congress as representative of party-list group Sanlakas.

The Comelec had earlier said that eight representatives would be proclaimed as Buhay Hayaang Yumabong or Buhay has two, based on an earlier Comelec resolution.

But the poll body corrected this yesterday saying that the Supreme Court ruled that only one Buhay representative would take his seat.

Comelec does not know who between the two, Rene Velarde or Mariano Logarta, would take the seat. Velarde is the son of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde.

Others who will be proclaimed are Mujiv Hataman of Anak Mindanao or Amin, Dioscoro Granada of Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda or ABA, Emerito Calderon of the Philippine Coconut Producers' Federation or Cocofed and Jose Virgilio Bautista of Sanlakas.

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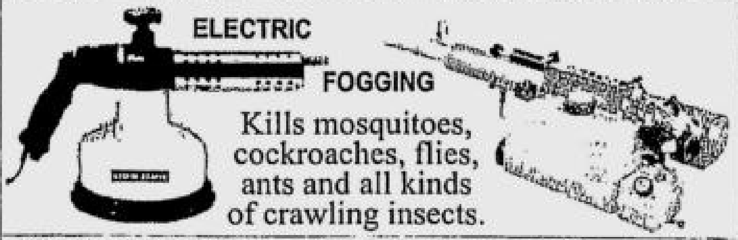
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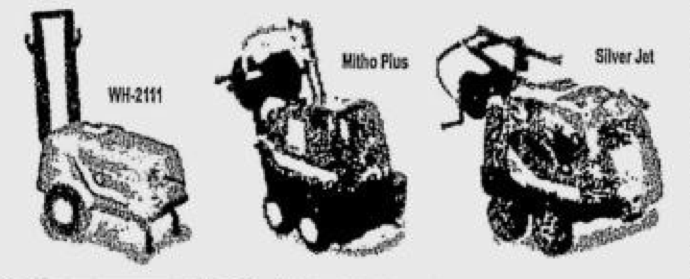
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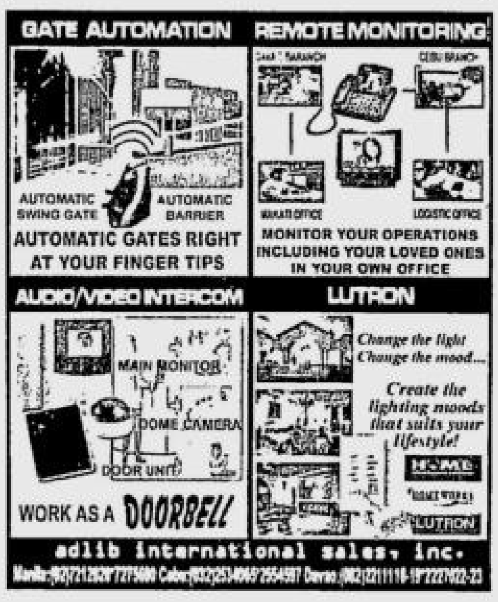
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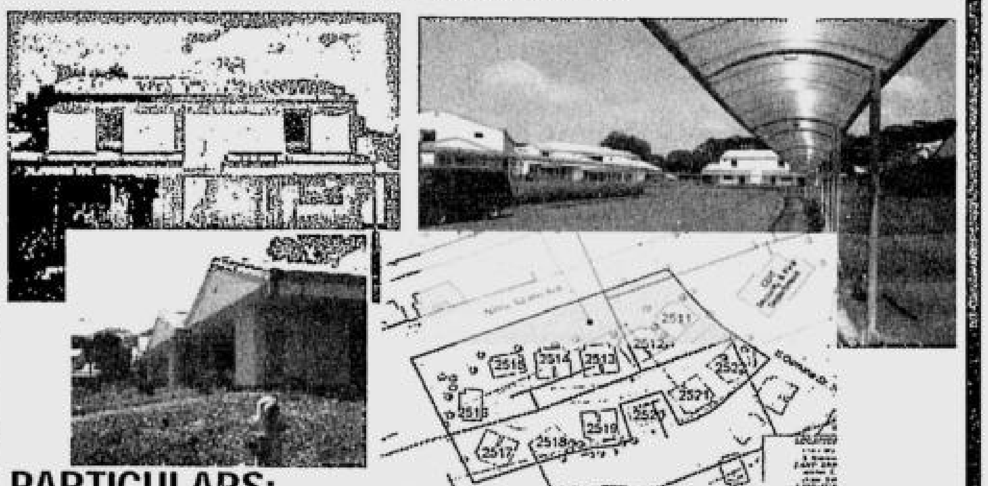
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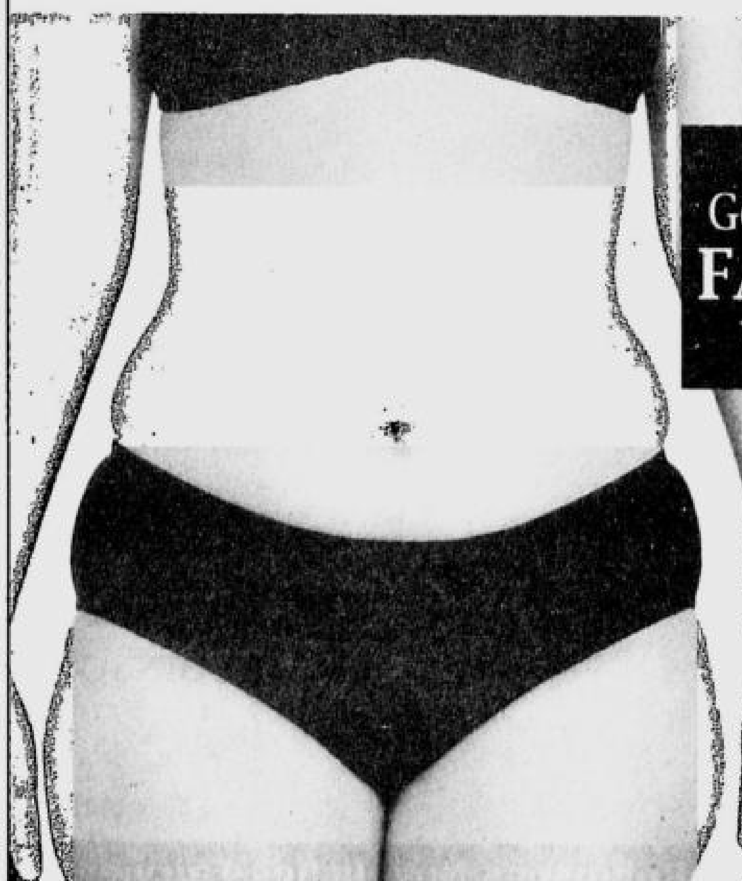

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Sweatshop to settle with sleepless staff

From page A1

Anvil and others did so for varying lengths of time.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said sweatshops were a "scourge" of the garment industry where "good employers outnumber the bad."

"Sweatshops don't do anybody any good. They exploit and, in the process, radicalize workers," she said in a press conference at the Dusit hotel in Makati attended by Donald Dee, president of the Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines (Congep), and Trade Union Congress of the Philippines president Democrito Mendoza.

Sto. Tomas stressed that an organized workforce was still the best weapon against labor exploitation.

"In the end, there is no substitute for workers themselves being empowered enough to make a complaint if they feel that they are not being treated well," she said.

The Anvil factory, based in Taytay, Rizal, is a subcontractor of American companies JC Penney and Sears & Roebuck. The sweatshop conditions there, as related by some of its workers, were the subject of a special report run by the INQUIRER on July 3.

Sto. Tomas earlier told the INQUIRER it would be better if Anvil made a payment settlement with the workers.

She also promised to look into the case of Rouel Quitoriano, a former supervisor at Anvil who disclosed to the INQUIRER the conditions at the factory, including the offer to workers of an insomnia-inducing drug to keep them awake during two- to three-day work shifts.

Sto. Tomas said Quitoriano's complaint regarding his claim of overtime pay and other benefits was now with the National Labor Relations Commission.

Broad alliance

Sto. Tomas called for a "broad alliance" among various sectors to ensure that sweatshops would "not thrive in our society."

"We pride ourselves in being able to move to the rest of the world quality garments and other products that show the best in Filipinos ... But this cannot be done at the expense of the workers," she said, adding:

"I think I speak for the entire government when I say [it] will not tolerate sweatshops. We will be in partnership with government agencies, the private sector and trade unions [in ensuring] that this scourge is eliminated from the Philippines."

The TUCP's Mendoza said the exposé on Anvil should serve as an example to "unscrupulous employers."

He urged Dee and other employers to police their ranks and rid the industry of violators of labor standards.

Invoking the laws of karma, Mendoza said employers' nonpayment of minimum wages and disrespect for core labor standards would eventually lead to bigger losses for them.

The TUCP is consolidating the results of a study it conducted on various companies as part of its anti-sweatshop campaign, a program funded by the USAID and coursed through the American Center for International Labor Solidarity.

Dee—who earlier said the INQUIRER should not have run the report on Anvil because it supposedly tainted the image of the local garment industry and raised the danger of canceled orders for other garment factories—said foreign buyers had expressed satisfaction at the way the government and the private sector were handling the Anvil case.

He said he had received calls asking about the INQUIRER report and checking "how we are handling the situation."

"At the moment they are satisfied," he said. "They have seen the [actions] of the government, especially the quick decision of the DOLE and the Department of Trade and Industry through the Textiles and Garments Export Board."

Dee said foreign buyers approved of the "working relations" between "two social partners"—a reference to his group Congep and the TUCP, one of the biggest trade union federations in the country.

"They are quite confident that we are on top of the situation," he said.

He also said the customers of Anvil had also called to say they wanted the federation to pressure factory owners to comply with labor standards.

"If Anvil fails to comply, the buyers said they will cancel their orders," he said.

Anti-sweatshop alliance

A press statement issued by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop), of which Dee is president, quoted Sto. Tomas as announcing the formation of an anti-sweatshop alliance in the local garment industry.

The alliance is to be composed of representatives of the labor and trade departments, Ecop, TUCP, Garments and Textile Export Board (GTEB) and other private groups.

It plans to show the media the "best-run" textile factory in Bulacan.

At a press conference, the Ecop expressed alarm over the "misimpression" created by the Anvil case.

The Ecop statement included an announcement from the GTEB that it had reaccredited 400 firms that had complied with international labor standards under the Worldwide Responsible Apparel Program, of which the Philippines is a signatory. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

DEE: Sore at messenger of bad news.

STO. TOMAS: Sweatshops "scourge" of industry.

P54-M Superlotto...

From page A1

ning the P54-million Superlotto jackpot prize on Sunday.

Now, the couple and their five children have decided to go on vacation somewhere in the Visayas just to have peace of mind, even for a few days.

Thaddeo (not his real name) and his wife have been on a lot of pressure since Sunday after their neighbors in Barangay Ermita in this city learned about their good fortune.

Several people had been flocking to their house to ask for *balato* (tip), said Felicisimo Rupenta, chair of Barangay Ermita.

On top of this, the couple do not know what to do with their money.

"They could not sleep. They could not eat. They are faced with a lot of pressure. They don't know how to manage and what to do with their winnings," Rupenta, a close friend of the couple, said in Cebuano.

He said life had been difficult for the couple, whom he described as "poor."

Thaddeo earns his living by making and selling *chorizo* at a public market in Carbon. His wife works as barangay secretary of Ermita.

Rupenta said four of the couple's children were enrolled at a public school. But the eldest son was in second year college when he was forced to drop out because his parents did not have the money for tuition.

On April 29, the family's house was among those destroyed during the fire that hit Barangay Ermita, an urban poor community in Cebu City. The family was able to partially rebuild its two-bedroom house.

Winning combination

The family's fate, however, changed when Thaddeo won the jackpot prize of P54,031,158.30 in Sunday's 6/49 Superlotto. He got the winning combination—46, 4, 6, 9, 15 and 20—by putting together his age (46) and the ages of his five children.

He bought his ticket from the lotto outlet owned by Rosco Rosco in Barangay Ermita.

Rupenta said that after the Sunday draw, Rosco immediately went to the couple's house to personally inform them about the good news.

Rupenta said the couple informed him about their windfall the following morning and asked him to accompany them to Manila to get their prize at the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

After getting the jackpot prize, the couple deposited P54 million in the bank and took the remaining P31,158.30.

But even before the couple could lay their hands on the prize, neighbors had already learned about Thaddeo's good fortune, according to Rupenta. Many of the neighbors wanted to ask for *balato* from the couple.

"I think the entire barangay asked money from the couple. Even at the barangay hall, many had asked about them. This could be the reason why the couple felt pressured," Rupenta said in Cebuano.

Rupenta said that the couple were very confused and that they lost their appetite because of too much pressure. In fact, the couple could not believe that they are now millionaires, according to the barangay chair.

Rupenta said he then advised the couple to take a vacation in a "nice place" so they could think of what to do with the money.

Rupenta admitted that he too was hoping that he would be given *balato* as promised by the couple when they return in 10 to 20 days.

He, however, denied rumors that the couple had given him P1 million and that the couple had promised to give P1.15 million for the barangay. "They promised to give money to all their friends in the barangay," he said.

Thaddeo's wife also vowed to continue serving as barangay secretary, a position she has held since 1997. The husband might opt to expand his chorizo business, according to Rupenta.

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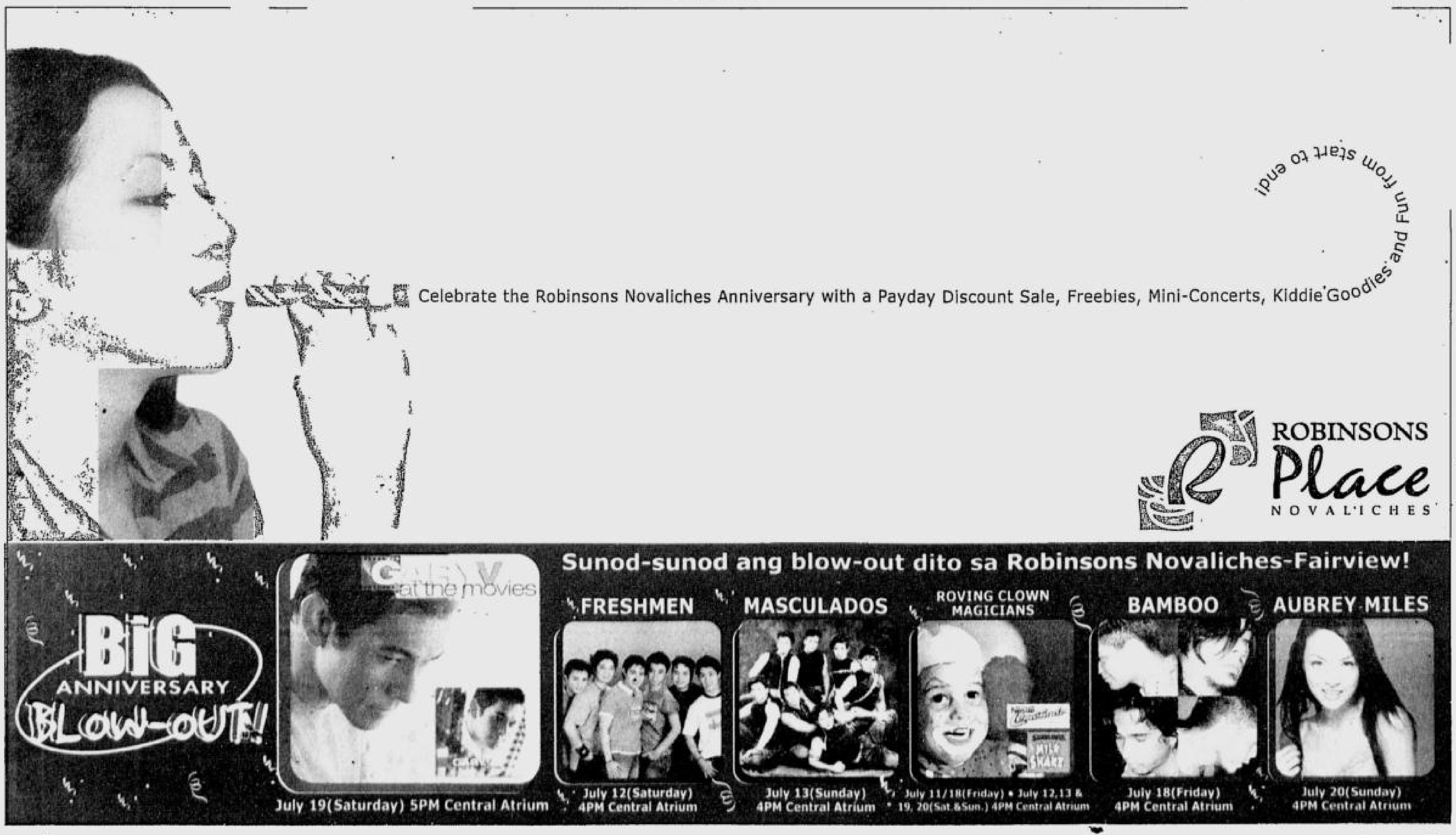

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FORUM SHOPPING

SC threatens Erap lawyer with contempt

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has threatened the lawyer of former President Joseph Estrada with contempt and disciplinary action for sending a list of questions to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban about their role in the Edsa II revolt.

The high court refused to answer Alan F. Paguia's questions, saying that President Macapagal's legitimacy has been settled and that he was forum shopping because the Sandiganbayan is still hearing Estrada's plunder case.

"Atty. Alan F. Paguia is thus strongly warned, on pain of contempt and disciplinary action, to desist from sending, directly or indirectly, the same or other such submissions to this Court or to its members," said the SC's one-page en banc resolution.

Justices Leonardo Quisumbing and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez did not sign the resolution because they were on leave.

The court said it refused to answer Paguia's list of questions because it "improperly requests for admission" or "calls for the rendering of an advisory opinion" on a subject already raised by Paguia in a motion that he filed in Estrada's case pending in the Sandiganbayan.

"Hence, it is a disguised form of forum shopping," the Court said.

"Furthermore, it inappropriately seeks to open to review the legality of the assumption of the Presidency, a matter that has been settled by this Court nearly two and a half years ago, which cannot be reopened by means of this letter," the Court said.

"As an officer of the Court, Atty. Alan F. Paguia, like any lawyer knows, or ought to know, this fundamental and elementary principle and is bound by his oath, the Code of Professional Responsibility and his honor, to respect and observe it," the Court added.

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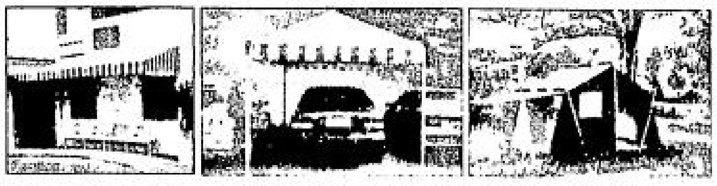
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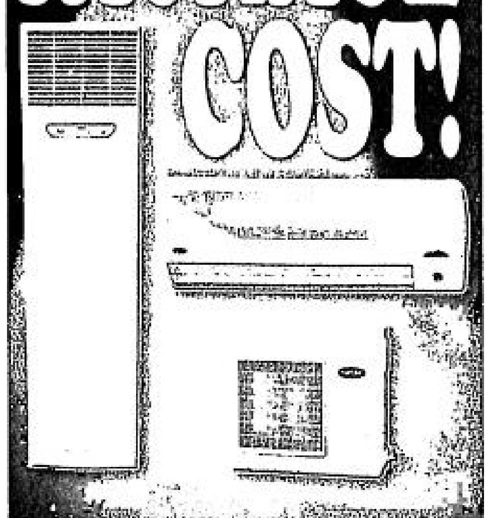
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EDITORIALS

Mea culpa

THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said its integrity is being "raked over the coals" as a result of sex scandals hounding the ecclesiastical hierarchy nowadays. The metaphor may apply as well to its attempts to come clean on the issue and deal more firmly with clerical malfeasance. Whether the alleged abuses of the clergy are real or not, no one would dispute that the Church could only come out stronger in the crucible of purification.

That's why the CBCP mea culpa over the "actual or alleged sexual misconduct of some of its shepherds" and financial mismanagement by certain priests is welcome. It shows that the leaders of the Church have taken good stock of the situation and, unlike their counterparts in the United States who are now reaping the bitter fruits of unfortunate evasion and deception for many decades, have taken the decisive high road to transparency and accountability, within the requirements of ecclesial prudence and even confidentiality, of course.

The protocols on clerical sexual misconduct aren't finished. They need to be developed and evolved, taking into consideration canonical and civil requirements. While there are those in the CBCP who wish to immediately banish clerics who commit sexual abuses, there are those who caution against knee-jerk responses. The CBCP must also take the guidance of the Holy See on the matter. This is well and good if only to enhance effective responses to the problem. In the United States, rash responses to clerical abuses that do not take into account fine canonical issues and even the conditions of charity and justice have the bishops and other clerics now debating whether they have acted too hastily and blindly.

It is also wise of the CBCP to sound off the faithful about its plan to revise and reform seminary education and formation. Studies tend to show that sexual misconduct of clergymen can be traced to the victimizers' experiences of sexual assault and deviancy in the seminary, and it is only right that the CBCP and the Apostolic Nunciature should clamp down on seminary formators who are wolves in sheep's clothing.

But perhaps more than this, there ought to be a more determined effort at holistic training, one that will recast the value of celibacy in positive terms—not as sexual repression, but as an expression of an apostle's spiritual openness to others, including the opposite sex.

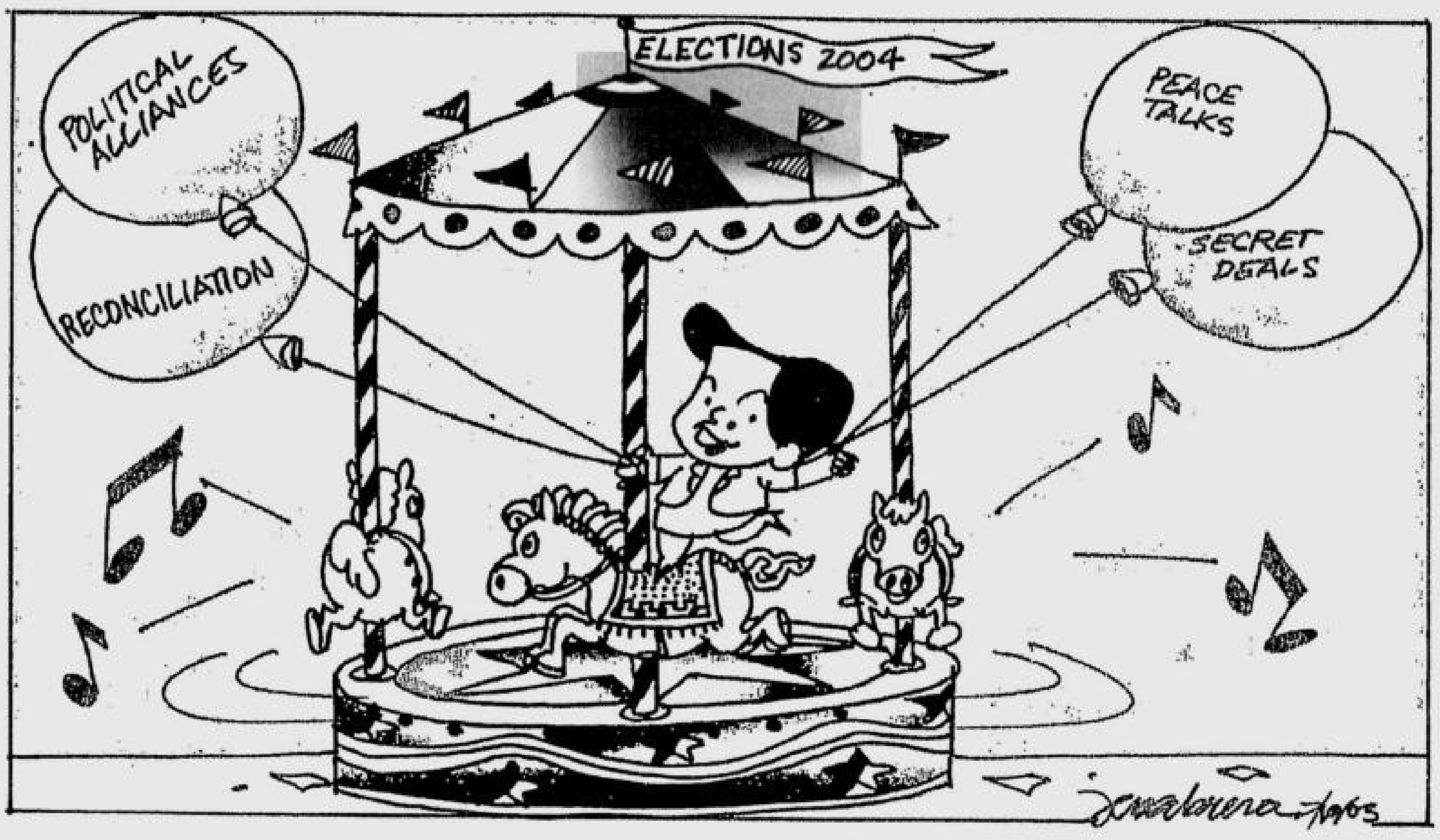
If expressed in positive terms, celibacy will continue to be a value in the Church despite the opinion of some that it is an incentive to clerical sexual deviance and an obstacle to more vocations. To be sure, most Filipinos prefer their priests celibate and the unhealthy priest-parishioner ratio is not a strong reason to abolish celibacy. Strictly speaking, all Catholics are priests—they are a people who belong to the Order of Melchisedech, as the theologian would say—so that the lack of priests is not a problem. When there's lack of clerics to do the job, lay people can take over.

But the bishops should seriously consider revising its recruitment program. Perhaps it should exert more effort and imagination in recruiting adult professionals to the clerical corps. Studies show that late vocations are good vocations. Adult professionals tend to be more balanced individuals since they have come to terms with problems of sex and identity. Most important, with their professional background and accomplishments, they can contribute important skills to a Church that is forever challenged by questions of relevancy in a pluralist, free-market world.

Steadfast faith

IN TACKLING head-on the troubling issue of clerical abuses and misdemeanors, the CBCP is largely aided by the goodwill of Filipinos. This owes to the resiliency of the Filipinos' Catholic faith that remains, by and large, steadfast despite the challenges posed by secularism, materialism and non-Catholic Christian groups. In the United States, the Church is largely stymied by the generally unwelcome climate created by a sensationalist media and a largely hostile society where it struggles as a minority Christian group.

It helps the Filipino Church too that the papal nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco, has taken a more active stance toward reports of clerical knavery. The CBCP initiative and Franco's resoluteness reflect the union of the domestic and the universal in the Church we call Catholic. They show that the Church is both local and total.



Expand Katipunan to Ateneo campus

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE METRO Manila Development Authority will go ahead with the cutting of trees on Katipunan Avenue to ease the traffic congestion in front of Miriam and Ateneo. The MMDA wants to remove the islands separating the service roads from the main road and thus widen the avenue and allow it to carry more vehicles. But growing on those islands are the trees, so they will have to go, said the MMDA.

Ateneo and Miriam management, students, residents of the area and environmental groups are opposing the planned tree-cutting, but MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando sees no other alternative to ease the traffic congestion. There have been many suggestions, such as a drop-and-ride plan, a four-day school week, a carless day for Ateneo and Miriam students, and a bridge between the two schools. Some have been suggested by the MMDA but the opposers rejected them all. Others have been suggested by the universities but the MMDA dismissed them as impractical. So, many trees that have struggled to survive for many years on Katipunan would be massacred.

Strangely, despite the many brains in those meetings, nobody has thought to propose the most obvious, simplest, easiest and most logical way to widen Katipunan. That is to expropriate a narrow strip, enough for two lanes, of the Ateneo and Miriam campuses. In the first place, the two universities and their students would be the principal beneficiaries of the road widening. And the narrow strip in question is nothing but empty space. And they would be amply paid for it, too. The University of the Philippines is giving up its Integrated High School campus for the widening of Katipunan, why can't Ateneo and Miriam give up a tiny strip of their huge campuses for everybody's good?

In helping write and pass the Lina Law, some Ateneo priests said property owners should sacrifice their properties for the sake of the squatters. But at the same time, they refuse to allow displaced squatters to pitch their shanties even if only temporarily on the huge and largely empty campus. It was like telling the squatters, for whom their hearts bleed, it's all right for you to take over other people's properties, but not ours.

In the widening of Katipunan, Ateneo has the same policy: Everybody should make sacrifices, but not us.

***

The vice president for public affairs (translation: PRO) of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Mer Nilo P. Racimo, sent a bitchy letter to the INQUIRER last July 3 accusing me of "bias in writing about GSIS-related matters."

"It leads us to conclude that he has a personal crusade to discredit the government agency and its management," he wrote. "His tirades against the GSIS are exasperating."

Hmmm, very touchy, isn't he? Why, what did I do? I merely reported the loss of P632,000 from the vault of the GSIS-Family Bank in Imus Cavite. The column was based on the official reports of the Imus police and special investigating team sent by the GSIS itself. What is exasperating about that?

This is the concern of the public. A crime has been committed, and money of GSIS members have been lost. The public should know about it. But this was never publicized by either the GSIS or the bank. Now it is obvious why. The GSIS management is oversensitive about it.

Why? Perhaps because of the mysterious circumstances behind the incident.

According to the official investigation reports, the bank vault was not properly locked at the close of office hours the day before. When the bank branch opened the next morning, there was the strong odor of combustible material. When they opened the vault, the P632,000 was gone. There was a pile of ashes where it used to be. But surprise, surprise, beside it was a bundle of P10,000-bills, untouched by fire. What happened here?

To the amateur detective, the money was stolen, not burned. The ashes came from pieces of paper to make it appear that the money was burned. But the unburned bundle of peso bills gave the caper away. Was it forgotten there in the haste of the thieves to get away? Or was it purposely left there?

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Is the solution to encourage gun ownership and the issuance of more permits to make things more democratic? Clearly, we need that like a hole in the head. We see that from nothing less than the United States itself, where the right to bear arms is enshrined in the Constitution and buying guns is the easiest thing in the world. The ensuing scale of mayhem, not least on campuses, has sparked widespread protest against the National Rifle Association.

Two, people need guns for protection. "Especially," says Ybañez, "in the Philippines where we all know the police can't protect the citizens."

Well, to begin with, the law allows people to have guns at home, where they can protect themselves and their families. It merely forbids them from carrying their guns outside. Carrying guns outside the home has not been known to protect people, if we are to go by the alarming number of public officials who have been gunned down of late. We may presume that they were carrying guns. Some of them even had bodyguards. Carrying guns does not naturally protect people from harm.

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OPINION

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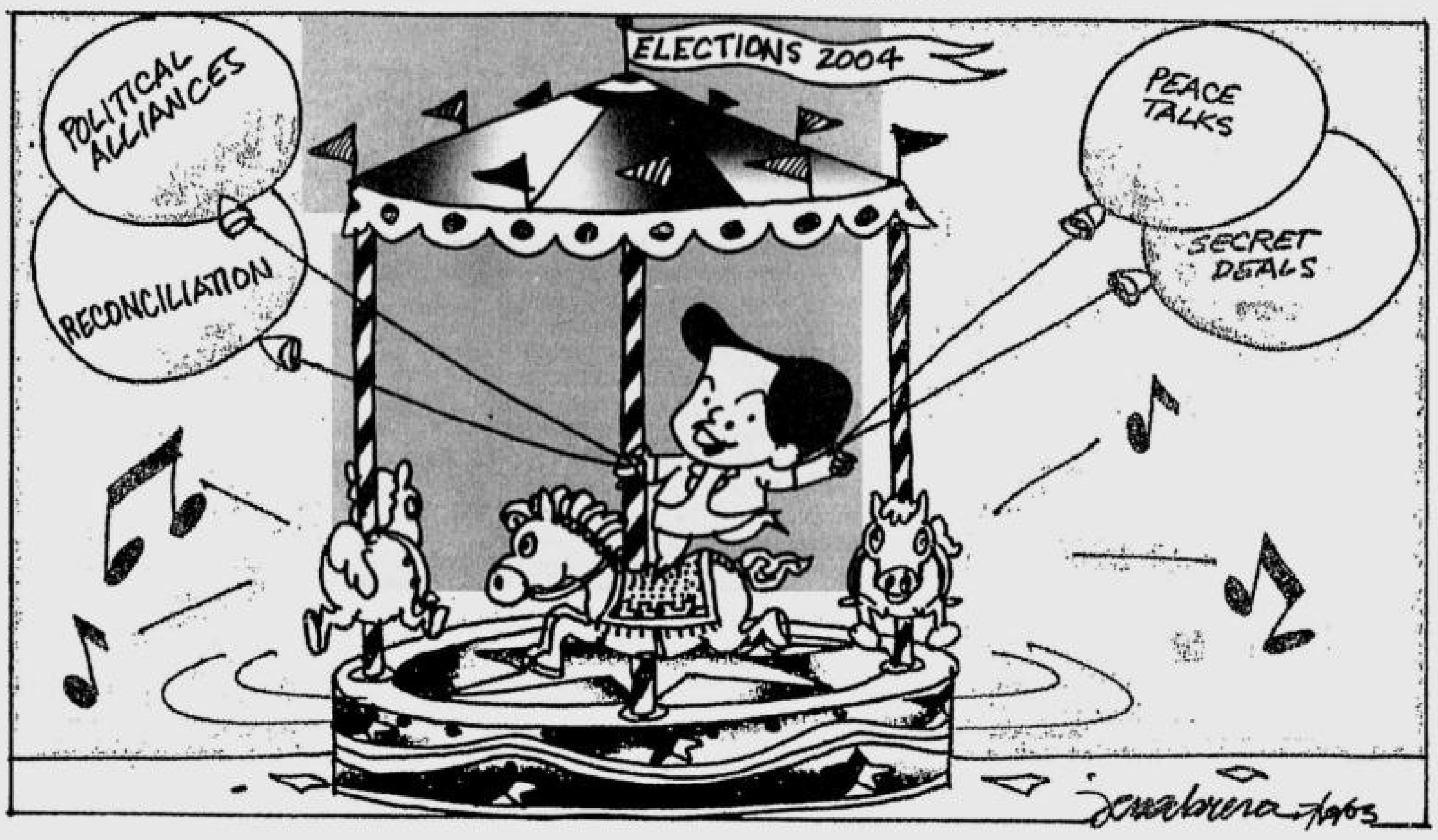

EDITORIALS

Mea culpa

THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said its integrity is being "raked over the coals" as a result of sex scandals hounding the ecclesiastical hierarchy nowadays. The metaphor may apply as well to its attempts to come clean on the issue and deal more firmly with clerical malfeasance. Whether the alleged abuses of the clergy are real or not, no one would dispute that the Church could only come out stronger in the crucible of purification.

That's why the CBCP mea culpa over the "actual or alleged sexual misconduct of some of its shepherds" and financial mismanagement by certain priests is welcome. It shows that the leaders of the Church have taken good stock of the situation and, unlike their counterparts in the United States who are now reaping the bitter fruits of unfortunate evasion and deception for many decades, have taken the decisive high road to transparency and accountability, within the requirements of ecclesial prudence and even confidentiality, of course.

The protocols on clerical sexual misconduct aren't finished. They need to be developed and evolved, taking into consideration canonical and civil requirements. While there are those in the CBCP who wish to immediately banish clerics who commit sexual abuses, there are those who caution against knee-jerk responses. The CBCP must also take the guidance of the Holy See on the matter. This is well and good if only to enhance effective responses to the problem. In the United States, rash responses to clerical abuses that do not take into account fine canonical issues and even the conditions of charity and justice have the bishops and other clerics now debating whether they have acted too hastily and blindly.

It is also wise of the CBCP to sound off the faithful about its plan to revise and reform seminary education and formation. Studies tend to show that sexual misconduct of clergymen can be traced to the victimizers' experiences of sexual assault and deviancy in the seminary, and it is only right that the CBCP and the Apostolic Nunciature should clamp down on seminary formators who are wolves in sheep's clothing.

But perhaps more than this, there ought to be a more determined effort at holistic training, one that will recast the value of celibacy in positive terms—not as sexual repression, but as an expression of an apostle's spiritual openness to others, including the opposite sex.

If expressed in positive terms, celibacy will continue to be a value in the Church despite the opinion of some that it is an incentive to clerical sexual deviance and an obstacle to more vocations. To be sure, most Filipinos prefer their priests celibate and the unhealthy priest-parishioner ratio is not a strong reason to abolish celibacy. Strictly speaking, all Catholics are priests—they are a people who belong to the Order of Melchisedech, as the theologian would say—so that the lack of priests is not a problem. When there's lack of clerics to do the job, lay people can take over.

But the bishops should seriously consider revising its recruitment program. Perhaps it should exert more effort and imagination in recruiting adult professionals to the clerical corps. Studies show that late vocations are good vocations. Adult professionals tend to be more balanced individuals since they have come to terms with problems of sex and identity. Most important, with their professional background and accomplishments, they can contribute important skills to a Church that is forever challenged by questions of relevancy in a pluralist, free-market world.

Steadfast faith

IN TACKLING head-on the troubling issue of clerical abuses and misdemeanors, the CBCP is largely aided by the goodwill of Filipinos. This owes to the resiliency of the Filipinos' Catholic faith that remains, by and large, steadfast despite the challenges posed by secularism, materialism and non-Catholic Christian groups. In the United States, the Church is largely stymied by the generally unwelcome climate created by a sensationalist media and a largely hostile society where it struggles as a minority Christian group.

It helps the Filipino Church too that the papal nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco, has taken a more active stance toward reports of clerical knavery. The CBCP initiative and Franco's resoluteness reflect the union of the domestic and the universal in the Church we call Catholic. They show that the Church is both local and total.

Expand Katipunan to Ateneo campus

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE METRO Manila Development Authority will go ahead with the cutting of trees on Katipunan Avenue to ease the traffic congestion in front of Miriam and Ateneo. The MMDA wants to remove the islands separating the service roads from the main road and thus widen the avenue and allow it to carry more vehicles. But growing on those islands are the trees, so they will have to go, said the MMDA.

Ateneo and Miriam management, students, residents of the area and environmental groups are opposing the planned tree-cutting, but MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando sees no other alternative to ease the traffic congestion. There have been many suggestions, such as a drop-and-ride plan, a four-day school week, a carless day for Ateneo and Miriam students, and a bridge between the two schools. Some have been suggested by the MMDA but the opposers rejected them all. Others have been suggested by the universities but the MMDA dismissed them as impractical. So, many trees that have struggled to survive for many years on Katipunan would be massacred.

Strangely, despite the many brains in those meetings, nobody has thought to propose the most obvious, simplest, easiest and most logical way to widen Katipunan. That is to expropriate a narrow strip, enough for two lanes, of the Ateneo and Miriam campuses. In the first place, the two universities and their students would be the principal beneficiaries of the road widening. And the narrow strip in question is nothing but empty space. And they would be amply paid for it, too. The University of the Philippines is giving up its Integrated High School campus for the widening of Katipunan, why can't Ateneo and Miriam give up a tiny strip of their huge campuses for everybody's good?

In helping write and pass the Lina Law, some Ateneo priests said property owners should sacrifice their properties for the sake of the squatters. But at the same time, they refuse to allow displaced squatters to pitch their shanties even if only temporarily on the huge and largely empty campus. It was like telling the squatters, for whom their hearts bleed, it's all right for you to take over other people's properties, but not ours.

In the widening of Katipunan, Ateneo has the same policy: Everybody should make sacrifices, but not us.

* * *

The vice president for public affairs (translation: PRO) of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Mer Nilo P. Racimo, sent a bitchy letter to the INQUIRER last July 3 accusing me of "bias in writing about GSIS-related matters."

"It leads us to conclude that he has a personal crusade to discredit the government agency and its management," he wrote. "His tirades against the GSIS are exasperating."

Hmmm, very touchy, isn't he? Why, what did I do? I merely reported the loss of P632,000 from the vault of the GSIS-Family Bank in Imus Cavite. The column was based on the official reports of the Imus police and special investigating team sent by the GSIS itself. What is exasperating about that?

This is the concern of the public. A crime has been committed, and money of GSIS members have been lost. The public should know about it. But this was never publicized by either the GSIS or the bank. Now it is obvious why. The GSIS management is oversensitive about it.

Why? Perhaps because of the mysterious circumstances behind the incident.

According to the official investigation reports, the bank vault was not properly locked at the close of office hours the day before. When the bank branch opened the next morning, there was the strong odor of combustible material. When they opened the vault, the P632,000 was gone. There was a pile of ashes where it used to be. But surprise, surprise, beside it was a bundle of P10,000-bills, untouched by fire. What happened here?

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* * *

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FVR to GMA: Make up your mind now

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER PRESIDENT Ramos was quoted recently as appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to make up her mind whether to run or not in 2004. FVR said Lakas-MCD and the rest of the nation have been left "guessing too long" on what GMA wants to do in the 2004 elections, and the earlier she decides, the better.

FVR's advice sounds like the wise words of a general wishing to protect his team's flanks, but it's also a practical one from a veteran politician. All politicos know that commitment is very important: they have to announce their plans so that their leaders and followers know how and where to position themselves in an election. The name of the game is *unahan* to secure commitments.

* * *

The 2004 vise is tightening for GMA. Does she have any choice but to run? In the Palace there are members of her team who do not want her to run, but there are also those egging her to do so. Sen. Serge Osmeña may be right: the race might go down to one between GMA and Nationalist People's Coalition chair Eduardo Cojuangco, and Raul Roco, Panfilo Lacson and others may have to fall in line behind them. If the other option is Cojuangco, there will be people who will plead with GMA to run, if only to save this country from his group. Among them will be various coconut farmers' groups that feel that the coconut levy funds extracted from them like blood benefited only Cojuangco and his group.

* * *

PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac earned a lot of plaudits from various quarters for standing up to the Palace attempt to insert former Senate President Ernesto Maceda into the government bloc in the San Miguel Corp. board, in what was obviously an accomodation. I agree with Yorac: Maceda is one of the key political leaders of Cojuangco and having him appointed as one of the seven government directors in SMC would weaken the PCGG's case against the SMC chair. I'm glad the Palace backed off, for Yorac's credibility is very high.

* * *

Cojuangco's longtime side kick, SMC president Ramon Ang, objects to the front-page INQUIRER exposé about the loans his group obtained from United Coconut Planters Bank during former President Estrada's time. The INQUIRER cited PCGG sources who described those loans as "behest" because they were under-collateralized. Ang insists they were "over-collateralized," but UCPB sources dispute this with regard to at least three loans extended to his group. For instance, they note that his collateral for the P700 million UCPB loan to Skysetts are three parcels of land in Forbes Park, Makati and Balete Drive, Quezon City, whose total value was not enough. In fact, this was why Skysetts also pledged as collateral more than one billion shares of stock in another corporation, Cyberbay-Asia.

* * *

The problem is that Cyberbay-Asia took over the PEA-Amari reclamation contract in the Erap era, but as early as July 1998, former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez had already filed a case in the Supreme Court questioning the legality of the PEA-Amari contract (it was recently nullified by the Court). The fact that Cyberbay-Asia already was in trouble in 1998 was never reported by the bank officials who pre-approved the loan to Skysetts in 1999, using Cyberbay-Asia shares as part of the collateral. These officials were Jeronimo Kilayko, Lorenzo Tan (now PNB president) and Virgilio Jacinto. The latter was a lawyer of Cojuangco who was corporate secretary of Kanlaon Construction Co., which built Erap's "Boracay" mansion, and who later became director and corporate secretary of UCPB. One of the midnight actions of the Erap-appointed UCPB board was to hire Jacinto as first vice president and put him in charge of UCPB's foreclosed assets.

* * *

The interesting thing about Skysetts, whose business is leasing aircraft, was that it had entered into an 18-month contract with a subsidiary of SMC to lease a plane to SMC for the use of Cojuangco's group; it acquired that plane using the P700 million UCPB long-term loan. The question now is, how is Skysetts going to pay the loan after the plane lease expires?

What amazes many people, now that the dark secrets of the Erap-era UCPB are coming out, is how the Cojuangco group has remained unreformed and unrepentant, long after the Marcos era during which they had thrived so well. For instance, in getting UCPB to grant another Cojuangco-Ang company called Lucky Star P1.4 billion in loans, Ang pledged shares of stock in Northern Cement. But this is a sequestered company and if Lucky Star does not pay, how can UCPB "own" sequestered shares? Moreover, when Lucky Star couldn't pay the loan, the UCPB management simply converted it into equity and postponed payment of interest for five years; until now the bank has not received a single centavo as payment. On the other hand, to obtain its P2-billion loan, a Cojuangco-Ang company called Asturias Chemicals, pledged agricultural land in Calatagan, Batangas, as collateral. What the old UCPB management did not disclose was that this land remains the subject of an agrarian reform dispute involving 300 farmers.

* * *

Retrouvaille, a Catholic ministry that is devoted to helping married couples of various faiths to strengthen and heal their strained or hurting relationship, is giving another healing weekend for couples starting tomorrow afternoon, Friday, July 12 up to Sunday afternoon at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Barangay San Jose (near San Pablo Seminary), Tagaytay City. It will be run by Retrouvaille's dynamic spiritual director, Columban Fr. Dave Clay, assisted by several couples who have themselves benefited from the program. For more information, call Father Clay at 523-3361, or Tom and Ruby del Castillo at 931-8413 or cell 0918-923-2973.

Another story

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S another story told by an internally displaced person or IDP as told in "You Listen," a publication of the Community and Family Services International, (CFSI) on their pilot project in the conflict-affected areas of Central Mindanao. Listen to the story of Jasmin from Barangay Inug-ug, Pagalungan, Maguindanao:

"Jasmin and her husband are farmers. Before the war of 2000, they planted rice and corn. She also planted okra, patola, eggplant and other vegetables which she then sold in the market in Pikit, North Cotabato. Jasmin used to earn about P400-P500 a week and used these funds to send her children to school. Through their meager income, they were also able to help a nephew finish a course in agriculture at the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan. 'Life then was simple and without worry,' said Jasmin, 'but our fate changed when 2000 came.'

"Jasmin's family home in Inug-ug was literally right between AFP and MILF detachments. They were in visual contact of both groups of fighters. It was not a pleasant sight, but even then they were hesitant to leave as they had no other place to go. One dark night, they were awakened by several exploding bombs that seemed to have been dropped all at the same time. She heard helicopters overhead and saw the kitchen of her neighbor blown away. 'It was not a time to think,' she said.

"Jasmin and her family ran toward the Central Elementary School in the heart of Pagalungan to seek refuge, while others went to the Galakit evacuation center. Like the others, Jasmin and her family were not able to bring anything with them to the evacuation center. 'Everybody was scared; we had no idea what would happen to us,' recalled Jasmin. After several days in the Central Elementary School, Jasmin's family transferred to the refuge because of its close proximity to the highway.

"When fighting lessened in 2001, Jasmin and her family were able to return to Inug-ug and begin rebuilding their lives. Unfortunately, the heightened military offensives in February this year sent Jasmin and her family back to the Galakit evacuation center. As they were fleeing, she saw the flag of the Inug-ug Elementary School flying with the red side up—signifying war. Subsequently, the Inug-ug Elementary School was burned. The perpetrator was never identified."

* * *

BY WAY of epilogue, the Inug-ug Elementary School was subsequently rebuilt, through the combined efforts of the displaced families, government agencies and the CFSI and its partners. The school was in fact visited recently by President Macapagal-Arroyo, though CFSI workers say they need to expand the building and build more toilet facilities.

The residents of Inug-ug donated 15,000 sq.m. of land as the site for the new school, with the private sector in the area donating the lumber and other construction supplies. Labor was donated by the parents of the 500 schoolchildren served by the school and other members of the community.

Seven teachers, seven tutors and six extension workers have been hired for the school, but the CFSI needs to raise funds to pay their salaries (see below).

Immunization is being provided to children who need it, while a *halal* school lunch program and a nutrition education project for the parents is being organized. Meantime, efforts are being undertaken to integrate the features of the public school system and the Madrasah or Islamic religious school system. All toward the goal of instilling in these young people that "arms are for hugging, and not for violence."

* * *

AMONG THE PERSONALITIES present at the press conference called by the CFSI was Sheila Platt, who is best known to Filipinos as the wife of former US ambassador to the Philippines Nicholas Platt. A member of the CFSI Board of Trustees, Ms Platt is also a clinical social worker. Though her husband's career has since brought him to other places around the world, she has made it a point to return to the Philippines periodically to do her share in the work that the CFSI does among displaced families and communities here and in Vietnam and Myanmar.

Ms Platt said her focus in her work with the CFSI has been the "mental rehabilitation work" that the organization carries out among evacuees and other displaced persons. But the work of stress management, she said, is necessary not just among displaced persons but even among those carrying out humanitarian work. Humanitarian aid and development workers have to cope with a lot of "physical and psychological stress," which is why "caring for caregivers" is a necessary part of programs of groups like the CFSI.

Meanwhile, Tessie Tomas, who is doing a most creditable job as public relations officer of the CFSI, says the NGO welcomes donations for its many projects, foremost of which is "Arms are for Hugging," which seeks to promote "education for peace and development" among the displaced children of Central Mindanao.

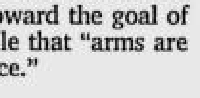
A donation of P500 a month for 12 months is enough to fund one child's education for one school year. For P1,500 a month for 12 months, the CFSI can pay the salary of a community extension worker. A monthly donation of P3,000 for one year provides books and supplies for 25 students for one school year. A teacher can enjoy salaries and benefits for one year with a monthly donation of P16,000. For P30,000 a month for 12 months, one classroom can be constructed and equipped.

If you're interested or have questions about the CFSI, you may get in touch with the executive director at headquarters@cfsi.ph or drop by their offices at 2/F Torres Bldg., 2442 Park Ave., Pasay City, Tel. Nos. 510-1046; 510-1045; 510-1040.

Vanunu

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



I DON'T know how many people were able to watch the recent BBC feature on Mordechai Vanunu. I was able to catch it only a week or so ago and found it very unsettling, to say the least. And I couldn't help asking why we aren't talking about him and why we don't know much about him.

The name, the sound, is stuck in my mind: Vanunu. Like Xanana. Xanana Gusmao, the East Timorese freedom fighter and political prisoner, I had written about a number times. Now he is the president of East Timor. Like Xanana who languished in prison for many years, Vanunu is also behind bars. And this is because of something he knows and revealed to the world.

The search for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) being the current obsession of the United States makes Vanunu's case all the more relevant. The paranoid search was conducted where WMDs have not been found—in enemy territory, that is. While places where they are likely to be found—friendly territory—have been left alone. This selective search stinks.

Mordechai Vanunu is a former Israeli nuclear technician and, according to a write-up, may well be the longest serving prisoner of conscience anywhere in the world. He has been called "the preeminent hero of the nuclear age" and "the world's first nuclear hostage."

Vanunu worked at Dimona, Israel's nuclear installation, from 1976 to 1986. Then he discovered that the plant was secretly producing nuclear weapons. He had revealed the existence of a plutonium separation plant in Israel. He provided the London Sunday Times with facts and photos to let the world know.

In September 1986, a few days before the Sunday Times broke the story, Vanunu was abducted by the Mossad (Israel's secret service). Vanunu was lured from London to Rome by a female Mossad agent. He was kidnapped, drugged and shipped to Israel.

(You have to give it to the Mossad. Read "The House on Garibaldi Street" which is about the transcontinental hunt for Nazi Adolf Eichmann. At the Tel Aviv airport you can buy this small book about Elie Cohn, the Israeli spy who penetrated the Arab network. Alas, he was discovered and hanged in public by his Arab captors. He did not crack.)

The plant Vanunu exposed is located 80 feet below the Negev desert. It has been there since the 1960s to recover plutonium from spent fuel rods from the Dimona reactor which is nearby.

"The plant continues to be an integral part of Israel's ongoing nuclear weapons program. Israel is believed to possess at least 200 nukes" said Mark Gaffney, author of the book "Dimona, The Third Temple: The Story Behind the Vanunu Revelation."

Then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres reportedly ordered the abduction of the whistleblower, to have him tried for allegedly jeopardizing state security. Vanunu's crime was speaking the truth, and for this he suffered solitary confinement for 11 years and five months, a fate worse than death, a punishment that could turn a human being into a zombie. This was an attempt to drive him up the wall and break his will.

Vanunu held on to his beliefs and did not waver. He stood his ground on full disclosure and the abolition of nuclear weapons. From the darkness of his prison cell he wrote: "It is a dangerous illusion to believe (that nuclear weapons) can be defensive. Only peace between states can promise security."

Vanunu emerged from solitary confinement in 1998 and was placed in a regular prison. But Israeli officials kept working on him, offering him conditional release if he would remain silent. Vanunu refused, insisting that his stand was non-negotiable. For him, silence in exchange for freedom was not an option. Vanunu is now on the 17th of his 18-year sentence.

Wrote Gaffney: "One of the causes for which Vanunu risked his life, full disclosure of Israel's nuclear policies, was briefly realized in February 1999, when a debate of the nuclear issue occurred on the floor of the Israeli Knesset…After shouting and recriminations, several Arab members of the Knesset who had sparked the debate were expelled from the chamber. The stormy circumstances showed the extent of denial that remains to be overcome. But it was a victory, nonetheless, for those who favor nuclear abolition."

Every year since 1987, Vanunu has been nominated for the Nobel Prize for Peace. His name is familiar in Europe and Australia but not in America and Asia. The US media ignores his case. It is an embarrassment to the United States, to Jews in America and to Israel, the US ally in the Middle East.

Vanunu's case highlights the double standard in President Bush's policies on the Middle East. He breathes down the necks of the likes of Kim Jong Il of North Korea. He calls for the reduction of WMDs but casts a blind eye on one of his allies. Israel has not been pressured to open its nuclear sites to IAEA inspectors.

The Free Vanunu Campaign (to free him and for a nuclear-free Middle East) reports that Israel has between 200 and 500 thermonuclear weapons and a sophisticated delivery system. It has a comprehensive arsenal of chemical and biological weapons. There is even a so-called "ethno bomb" being developed. This could identify a distinct Arab gene that would be vulnerable to engineered deadly microorganisms.

Anything could be believed if there is no full disclosure.

Vanunu has won a case for a new parole hearing but things are moving extremely slow. He said recently: "I am glad for what I have done."

I have always had a soft spot for Israel, because of what the Jews went through under the Nazis and the pharaohs. If you've watched "Schindler's List" and, recently, "The Pianist" (which won an Oscar for Adrien Brody), you would not wonder why Israel could produce someone as resilient as Mordechai Vanunu. Even against his own.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

After the storm

YOUNG BLOOD

Maria Criselda Aquino

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HATE my mother. I hate her most when I see her cry. When she seems to lose all hope in the face of trials. When she can't control my stubborn sister. When she is confused and cannot make a firm decision. When she seeks the help of her friends and sisters. When she loses her confidence. When she fails to give sound arguments and loses in our word war at home. When she gives up whenever a problem comes our way.

A litany of grievances? Yeah, and the list goes on. The bottom line is: I hate Nanay because she is weak.

But this was Nanay before. And she has changed a lot after Tatay got sick.

When Tatay had a stroke more than a year ago, Nanay seemed to rise above her old self. She became incredibly authoritative and totally in control during the six-month ordeal of Tatay.

During that period, she acted as our father and mother. She took care of Tatay, of course. But she was also the one tending the store, earning money for the family to make both ends meet.

My sister and I tried to help, but Nanay bore and sacrificed everything for us. She gave up her own work and chose us instead. (Well, the circumstances dictated what we should do, but we had no regrets about making such decisions.)

Nanay did everything to overcome those trials. She carried the burden for our family. She had a difficult time taking care of Tatay and working for the family at the same time. But I never heard a single complaint from her. Instead, I saw her enjoying every moment with Tatay, even if those were very difficult and trying times. I saw how she loved Tatay more despite his disability and shortcomings.

Their common ordeal ended six months after Tatay was stricken by his illness. He passed away three days before their 24th wedding anniversary.

It was so painful for Nanay to celebrate their wedding anniversary in the cemetery. She was clad in black while Tatay lay in his casket. It was so sad seeing two souls bonded together 24 years ago parting on their anniversary.

After the funeral, Nanay's trial was not yet over. She had so many things to attend to. And the most serious involved my 17-year-old sister and the child inside her womb. Yes, when we were burying Tatay, my sister was already three months pregnant.

You may call it a tragedy. I prefer to call it a concern, a serious concern.

It would have been much easier for Nanay to ask the man to marry my sister. But she couldn't do so because he was married.

I knew how Nanay felt, how she felt betrayed and victimized by circumstances. But she didn't have a choice, and so instead of sulking and dwelling on the problem, she accepted what happened to my sister with resignation. She ignored the *chismis* and just went on with her life. She even supported my sister and approved her plan of pursuing her studies.

Amid the storm, Nanay remained strong and steadfast even if my sister and I occasionally argued over the most trivial things like who should turn off the TV.

The storm has never passed, but Nanay remains hopeful that one day it will blow over—with God's help, of course.

Now it's my four-month-old niece with her beautiful smile who holds us together. Her smile relieves us of our burdens and reminds us that there is hope and a brighter future ahead.

Oh, we still have our problems. We still argue a lot. But we are still together.

It is because Nanay, who was regarded before by her damned daughter as a weakling and a crybaby, has remained strong for the family. Even now that she is alone raising me, my sister and now my niece.

I hated Nanay before. But after the storm, I admire and love her more. Without her to hold us together, the storm could have blown our home to pieces.

Maria Criselda Aquino, 20, works for a community newspaper in Rizal. She studied journalism at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Rape case vs teachers

ON SEPT. 28, 2001, rape charges were filed before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court against two instructors of AMA Computer College in Project 8, Quezon City. Accused before the sala of Judge Theresa dela Torre-Yadao of Branch 81 were Rusty Magcalas and Mark Depalobos. The two allegedly took turns in raping one of their female students.

The city prosecutor said the victim, Neyla (not her real name), successfully defended and passed her thesis subject on Aug. 12, 2000. The accused prodded her to give a "blowout."

The three, together with Neyla's male classmate and thesis partner, went to a bar on Timog Avenue. There the men downed several bottles of beer while she just kept them company.

When the bar was about to close, Magcalas suggested that they continue their celebration at Depalobos' boarding house. There the men continued drinking.

When her classmate felt he had had enough, he told Neyla that they should be going home. The instructors, however, asked Neyla to stay. And since Neyla lives nearby, she agreed.

Depalobos asked Neyla and Magcalas to move to his room upstairs so they would not disturb the neighbors. Magcalas then offered Neyla a beer, which she took. But after drinking half a glass, she felt dizzy and weak. She could hardly move but she knew what was happening. The accused then allegedly took turns in sexually molesting her.

Magcalas denied the allegations, saying he was Neyla's boyfriend and they had sex with her consent. He added that Depalobos, who was the victim's thesis adviser, would not have touched her because they were friends.

Police arrested Magcalas on Oct. 5, 2000, but Depalobos went into hiding.

On Jan. 30, 2002, Magcalas asked the court to quash the information. During his arraignment, he refused to enter any plea. He then filed a petition for certiorari with the Court of Appeals seeking annulment of his arraignment, which was denied in March 2002.

On April 2, 2002, Magcalas filed a motion asking Yadao to inhibit herself from hearing the case due to her "inaction or refusal to resolve and/or act upon the numerous motions and prayers." This was granted on April 23, although Yadao stressed that while the court remains impartial, "*delicadeza* becomes a first option to consider" when any of the parties begin to harbor doubts. The cases were raffled off to Judge Jose Catral Mendoza.

Case status: The prosecution is still presenting its witnesses and evidence. Depalobos remains at large.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department

Celibacy a matter of faith and love

CONRADO de Quiros wrote in his column last July 3 that priestly celibacy is an unrealistic requirement and that this goes beyond specific times and climes.

While it is true that we are in the age of the "secular city," or the age of SARS or AIDS, as he put it, I think that there are still certain things that should remain unchanged with the passing of time. There are many holy priests who are faithful to their commitment. Just because some have fallen doesn't mean we have to dilute the standard which has been set hundreds of years ago.

Priestly celibacy cannot be viewed as something negative, an outdated "disciplinary" norm, and should not be reduced to a mere deprivation of sensual satisfaction. Priestly celibacy is a matter of faith and love and total dedication. It is a matter of leaving everything, including human love and family, to follow Christ. Because "Where there is love, it is a willing sacrifice," as St. Josemaria Escriva wrote.

The titular archbishop of Grado, Crescenzio Sepe said: "The priesthood is not a gift for the use of the individual who receives it, but is for others; so, those who receive it have to be able and fit to give themselves totally and unconditionally to the brethren."

—GLECY G. GAMBOA,
Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE LETTERS DAILY INQUIRER

Mixed martial arts show a rip-off

LAST Saturday's staging of "Fearless" at the PhilSports arena has once again demonstrated the growing popularity of mixed martial arts as a sports event in the country and the need to make event promoters more accountable.

Promoted by a foreign group, it caught the attention of Filipino fight enthusiasts with the announced entry of "top contenders from the Ultimate Fighting Championship" and World Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu champion BJ Penn and the marquee match-up between Filipino fighter Myles Vives against Jarret Tamaye of the United States.

What the people got instead for their P500-P1,500 tickets were mostly local fighters, a speech from BJ Penn and the event promoter, and an exhibition-type match between Miles and a substitute local Combat Aikido fighter. No explanation was made why Tamaye did not show up. In the UFC, equally strong substitute fighters are always on standby in case of injuries. But they always explain any change in the match-ups.

While the event was an improvement over the two stagings of similar events (URCC) with its glitzy dance numbers and sexy escorts, uniformed referees and the UFC-inspired octagon ring, those "extras" were no excuse for not delivering on what was promised.

I believe the "Fearless" promoter violated both a DTI rule on advertising and GAB rule on fight match-ups.

—ED DAMES,
Suite 303 BSA Mansion,
Benavidez St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City

Ang is a Filipino

THIS refers to your interesting story "President's ex-publicist may not be a Filipino" by Jerry Esplanada last July 4.

Dante Ang works, acts, behaves, eats, drinks, talks, argues, thinks, dresses and spends like a Filipino. He was born in the Philippines and has a valid Philippine passport. His birth certificate shows he is a Filipino. And so, in our vocabulary, he is a Filipino.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO,
Sydney, Australia

Native children

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST Tuesday, I wrote about our prejudices against the "natives," the local popular term used to refer to cultural minorities or indigenous groups. At best, our attitudes are patronizing, seeing them as resistant to change. At worst, we view them as lazy and uncivilized.

Such attitudes are deeply-rooted, the Spanish and American colonizers and eventually, our own government, setting up barriers between "us" and "them." We, the ones who surrendered to the foreign masters, were rewarded and called "civilized" as opposed to these mountain peoples who resisted. "They" were different: pagan, primitive.

We "non-natives" all grow up with rare glimpses into the lives of indigenous Filipinos, except for occasional documentary travelogues, the natives becoming just another part of the scenery and the flora and fauna. Or the occasional newspaper article, referring to the latest epidemic, or famine.

In our childhood, too, our elders would scare us with stories about the fierce native, exemplified by headhunters, these images invoked to threaten us if we misbehaved as I remember from summers in Baguio: "*Sige*, we'll give you to the Igorot."

I'm realizing, too, we rarely heard of, much less saw, native children. During those summers in Baguio, I do not remember seeing the children and I am realizing, now, that they were kept apart from us. I suspect that in part, their parents too were apprehensive and fearful of us, lowlanders, maybe the differences all the more emphasized by our being English-speaking Intsik, many more steps removed from their own culture. Perhaps they, too, threatened their children: "*Sige*, we'll sell you to the *Intsik*!"

Fortunately, there's hope for bridging the divide between lowlanders and natives, with a new series of children's books called "Batang Katutubo" (Indigenous Children). The series comes from from Aklat Adarna, that great producer of children's books headed by Virgilio and Emelina Almario. (Virgilio Almario is also known by his pen name Rio Alma and was recently designated a National Artist.)

The books are in Filipino, with an English summary at the end. Let's browse through the five stories that have been released so far:

"Ang Paaralan ni Fuwan" is about a little Bontoc boy torn between farming responsibilities and his desire to go to school. "Gustong Mag-aral ni Sula" has a similar plot, revolving around a little Tiboli girl, with a surprise twist to the story of how little Sula gets to learn her alphabet.

"May Kapatid na si Mungan" is about a Manobo family as they go about with their "infanticipating" (a quaint Filipino English word that captures the feelings around a pregnancy). "Bahay ng Maraming Masasayang Tinig" is the story of a Badjaw girl dealing with the discrimination people have against her people, based on the stereotype of the Badjaw as professional beggars.

Finally, "Ang Ibay ni Miana" is the story of the friendship between two girls, one Agta and the other a lowlander, *ibay* being the term used by the Agta to refer to the non-Agta.

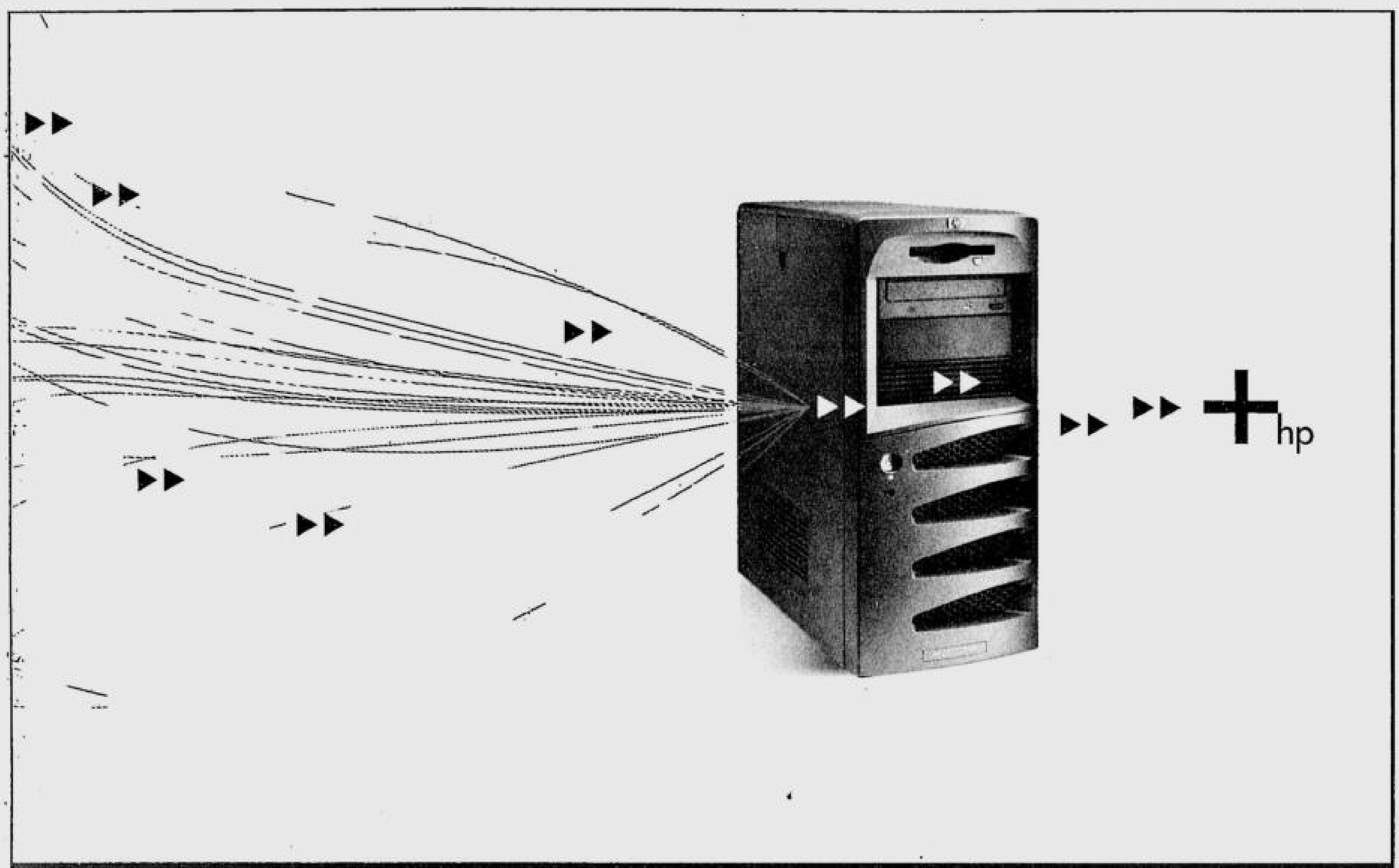
The emphasis of two stories on the striving for education is not coincidental. The series is supported in part by Unicef, its way of promoting The Rights of the Child. (INQUIRER had an article the other week about Unicef's ambassador of goodwill, Gary Valenciano, visiting a remote town in the Cordillera to promote discussions about these rights.)

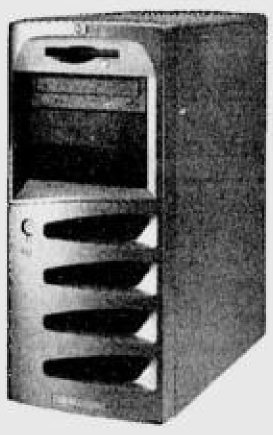
But there's more to the series than advocacy for children. The books should remind us of the daunting tasks associated with creating nationhood amid cultural diversity. Remember, we have more than 100 different ethnolinguistic groups in the Philippines, each with its own distinct culture.

The stories are a great way of introducing the multicultural diversity we have in the Philippines. There are references to indigenous musical instruments, traditions and folklore, with explanatory footnotes. We learn, for example, of the Manobo *kudlung*, a two-stringed guitar, and their *dalinday*, a love song. And we read about the Bontoc *ugfu*, a system of mutual help in farming similar to *bayanihan*.

While the books help children (and adults) to appreciate the diversity of cultures in our country, they also convey an important message: that whether one is Cebuano or Manobo, Ilokano or Tiboli, we all share the same excitement waiting for a new member of the family to arrive, the same zest for singing and dancing, and for children, the desire to go to school. The theme of poverty in two of the stories, and how they jeopardize the chances of children acquiring an education, also resonate: certainly, it is not just children of cultural minorities who often have to drop out of school.

One last comment. From the descriptions of the authors and the artists, I realized only one artist, Boy Dominguez, is from an indigenous group. Boy, who I'm proud to say is a personal friend, is Mandaya/Manobo/Tagalog. I am not saying these children's books should be written only by people from indigenous groups, but it would be wonderful if, eventually, we do see more of these "native" books written by and illustrated by the Hanunoo, the Bugkalot, the Ibaloi. When that happens, then we'll know that our cultural minorities have made it and have taken their rightful place in Philippine society.





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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Dems urge new Iraq probe after W. House admission

WASHINGTON—Democrats renewed their calls for a wide-ranging congressional probe into US intelligence lapses, after the White House backpedaled on its claim Tuesday that Iraq tried to obtain nuclear materials from Africa.

"It's a recognition that we were provided faulty information," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle.

"And I think it's all the more reason why a full investigation of all of the facts surrounding this situation be undertaken—the sooner the better."

Limited reviews of past intelligence are currently underway in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, but Democrats have said a broader bipartisan investigation is needed to determine whether the White House manipulated prewar intelligence on Iraq's weapons program—a move Republicans have blocked so far.

"Bipartisan investigations of this kind have been done in the past, to great success. Now is the time to do one in this case," the South Dakota Democrat said.

"It ought to be the subject of careful scrutiny... with regard to what it was we knew, what actions were taken, what statements were correct and which ones were incorrect. The sooner we can acquire that information, the better for the country."

The Bush administration backed away from assertions that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein tried to purchase "yellow cake" uranium from Africa to kickstart Iraq's idled nuclear weapons program. Bush included the allegation in his State of the Union speech in January, but the White House said Monday it regretted having done so.

Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, said the White House admissions raised more questions than they answered.

"The reported White House statements only reinforce the importance of an inquiry into why the information about the bogus uranium sales didn't reach the policymakers during 2002 and why, as late as the president's State of the Union address in January 2003, our policymakers were still using information which the intelligence community knew was almost certainly false."

Levin recently initiated his own investigation into US intelligence on Iraq's banned nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs after the committee's chair, Republican Sen. John Warner, declined to do so.

Until now Democrats have generally tread gently in requesting a full-fledged bipartisan investigation, fearing a public backlash should evidence of banned weapons actually turn up in Iraq. *AFP*

'Sexed up' Iraq intel continues to dog Blair

LONDON—The British government on Wednesday faced fresh calls for a judicial inquiry following further twists in its bitter row with the BBC over the handling of secret intelligence in an Iraqi weapons dossier.

Rodric Braithwaite, who was foreign affairs adviser to former prime minister John Major, told The Financial Times newspaper that a judicial inquiry should be launched to address the continued skepticism about the government's justification for going to war.

If within eight months or so it was shown that the case for war had been based on a non-existent threat it would "leave the government looking very tattered," said Braithwaite, a former head of parliament's Joint Intelligence Committee.

The defense ministry said Tuesday that one of its officials had come forward as the possible source of BBC claims that a dossier on Iraqi weapons had been "sexed up" on the orders of Downing Street.

However neither the defense ministry nor the BBC could confirm whether the official concerned—who was not named—was actually the source for BBC journalist Andrew Gilligan's story.

The disclosure came the day after parliament's foreign affairs committee produced a much-awaited report after examining the two dossiers published by the government in the run-up to war.

One, published in September 2002, included a headline-grabbing claim that Iraq could deploy chemical or biological weapons in 45 minutes.

The committee also probed the story broadcast by the BBC in late May that quoted an intelligence source as saying the government's September 2002 dossier was "sexed up" with the 45-minute claim despite doubts about its veracity among intelligence chiefs.

The BBC assertion that Prime Minister Tony Blair's office beefed up information from intelligence services to persuade a skeptical public of the case for war prompted a bitter row between the public broadcaster and the Labor government.

The foreign affairs committee's report concluded that the 45-minute claim "did not warrant the prominence given to it in the dossier, because it was based on intelligence from a single, uncorroborated source."

The defense ministry said Tuesday that the unnamed official had met Gilligan a week before he broadcast his original report.

But the official denied laying the responsibility at the door of Blair's communications chief Alastair Campbell who, Gilligan said, had been blamed by his source for the story.

There was uncertainty in the defense ministry and the BBC over whether the official concerned— who was not named— was actually Gilligan's source. *AFP*

Mississippi worker shoots dead 5 co-workers in plant

MERIDIAN, Miss.—A worker who allegedly disliked blacks opened fire at a Lockheed Martin aircraft parts factory in eastern Mississippi on Tuesday, killing five co-workers before committing suicide, police said.

Eight other employees at the plant near Meridian, Mississippi, were taken to local hospitals with gunshot wounds, said Lauderdale County Sheriff Billy Sollie. Two others were treated for shock.

Sollie said the gunman, identified as Doug Williams, 48, wore camouflage pants and used at least one shotgun and a semiautomatic weapon in the shooting, which occurred at around 11 a.m. He said the motive was still unknown.

Several people with links to the factory said they believed the shooting had been racially inspired.

"She felt like something bad was going to happen. She said he made a threat against black people," said Bobby McCall, the husband of one of the murdered victims.

Melvin Young, who was working at the time of the rampage, said managers at the plant had documented a number of complaints against Williams. Four of the five victims killed in the shooting were black, he added.

"This should have been nipped in the bud a long time ago," Young said. "When they search his home, I think they'll find an arsenal." A spokesperson for Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin declined to comment on Williams' work record.

A police spokesperson said there was no evidence yet to suggest a racial motive for the crime.

The sheriff's department identified the dead as Lanette McCall, 47, Micky Fitzgerald, 45, Sam Cockrell, 46, Thomas Willis, 57, and Charlie Miller, 58.

The incident was the latest in a series of workplace shootings in the United States and the deadliest since seven people were gunned down at an Internet consulting firm in Massachusetts on Dec. 26, 2000. *Reuters*

Japanese boy, 12, quizzed over killing of 4-year-old

TOKYO—Japanese police Wednesday were questioning a 12-year-old boy over the shocking murder of a 4-year-old boy whose bloodied and naked body was found last week, news reports said.

Police in the southern city of Nagasaki suspect the junior-high school student was involved in the kidnap and murder of Shun Tanemoto, Jiji Press and Kyodo news agencies said without citing sources.

Nagasaki police refused to comment on the reports.

The case revives memories of a gruesome murder in 1997 by a 14-year-old boy, who decapitated an 11-year-old boy and placed the head on the gate of the junior high school he attended in Kobe City.

Calls for stiffer penalties against young criminals grew after the Kobe case. A revised juvenile law took effect in April 2001, lowering the minimum age for criminal responsibility from 16 to 14.

Education minister Atsuko Toyama said the reported questioning of the teenage boy "took me by surprise." *AFP*

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski

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Abbas offers to quit as Palestinian PM

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Mahmoud Abbas stood up to pressure from his own Fatah faction over peace moves with Israel, threatening to quit as Palestinian prime minister and offering to resign from a top policysetting committee.

The internal crisis was prompted by his failure to persuade Israel to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners to bolster a US-backed "road map" to peace, officials said.

Weighing in to shore up the moderate Palestinian leader, the United States planned to provide its first direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority, in a break from withstanding US policy, US administration and congressional sources said.

But Israeli leaders stepped up pressure on Abbas. They issued a chorus of demands he dismantle militant Palestinian groups, as mandated by the road map, after a suicide bomber on Monday killed a 65-year-old Israeli woman in her home.

Abbas has rejected confrontation with militant groups, fearing he could touch off a civil war.

The suicide bombing, claimed by a West Bank cell of Islamic Jihad, was the first such attack since leading Palestinian factions announced a ceasefire on June 29. Islamic Jihad's Gaza-based leadership said it remained committed to the truce.

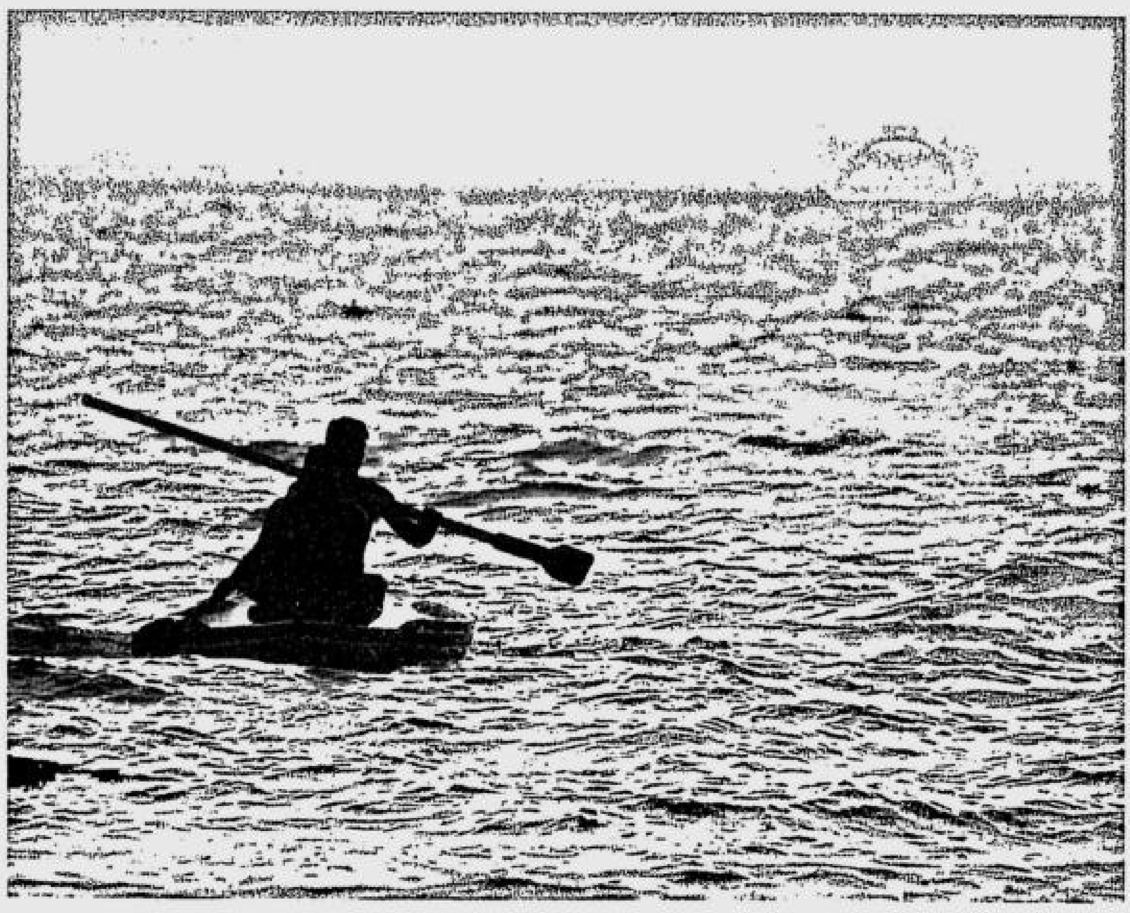
Abbas's offer to resign from Fatah's Central Committee, the backbone of the Palestinian Authority, came after hardliners asked he step down as prime minister. Abbas's office made clear he was not quitting Fatah.

But Palestinian legislator Saeb Erekat told CNN: "President (Yasser) Arafat said he and the Central Committee rejected (Abbas's) resignation and will do everything in their power to support (him) and to convince him to retract his resignation."

In a letter to Arafat, Abbas asked the veteran leader and Fatah to outline how to proceed with confidence-building steps charted by the peace plan on a path to Palestinian statehood by 2005.

"If (Abbas) rejects their ideas, he will resign as prime minister," a senior official said.

At a meeting with Fatah officials late on Tuesday, Arafat "showed signs that he did not fully back the (Abbas) government's policies—but he then backtracked while pointing out that Israel was not serious about moving ahead on the road map", another senior Palestinian official said. *Reuters*



TWO Palestinians paddle their dinghy in the Mediterranean Sea off Gaza City at sunset July 8. There has been a relative lull in the violence since Palestinian groups announced a truce in anti-Israeli attacks on June 29.

AFP

Bush vows to help end Liberia war

GOREE ISLAND, Senegal—US President George W. Bush pledged on Tuesday to help end Liberia's civil war and branded slavery one of history's greatest crimes, beginning a trip to Africa that underlined a major policy shift.

Bush's commitment on Liberia signaled his first trip to Africa as president was designed to cement his administration's reassessment of the continent's strategic importance over oil and intelligence that al-Qaida could use it as a hideout.

He told West African leaders at a meeting in Senegal's capital Dakar that he would participate in efforts to enforce a fragile ceasefire in Liberia to end 14 years of war.

"We're in the process of determining what is necessary to maintain the ceasefire," Bush said. He did not elaborate on what role Washington might play in restoring peace to a nation founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said it would be "some time" before the president decided whether to send troops.

Washington was shaken by its last African military foray when it had to make a bloody exit from Somalia 10 years ago.

"The United Nations is going to be involved. The United States will work with Ecowas (Economic Community of West African States)," Bush told reporters.

In a sign of difficulties confronting any peacekeeping mission, forces loyal to Liberian President Charles Taylor stopped US military experts from visiting a refugee camp outside Monrovia on Tuesday, witnesses said. *Reuters*

54 countries worse off now than 10 years earlier—UN

UNITED NATIONS—The boom of the 1990s left some 50 nations worse off than they were 10 years earlier, jeopardizing pledges by world leaders to cut poverty in half by 2015, a major UN report said.

Foreign aid declined in the 1990s, debt increased for poor nations, AIDS statistics soared and prices dropped for crucial commodities, the main exports from poor nations, according to the annual UN Human Development Report, released on Tuesday.

"In the so-called great decade, a very significant hard core of countries ended further behind with more poor people," said Mark Malloch Brown, administrator of the UN Development Program, which produced the report.

This year's survey documented the progress of 175 countries toward eight UN Millennium development goals agreed to by world leaders three years ago, ranging from reducing extreme poverty to halting the spread of AIDS by 2015.

Fifty-four countries, almost half of them in Africa, are poorer now than in 1990, and some will not meet the goals for 50 years.

In Dublin, Irish rock star Bono, frontman for U2, vowed to lead a civil disobedience campaign to spur rich nations to increase aid and forgive the debt of impoverished countries.

"This issue is the defining issue of our time," he said during an introduction of the report. "We are about to get noisy, we are about to bang a lot of dustbin lids."

For Arab states and Latin America and the Caribbean, reaching the goals by 2015 is possible. But the report said it would take 20 sub-Saharan African nations until 2129 to achieve universal primary education, until 2147 to halve extreme poverty and until 2165 to cut child mortality by two-thirds.

The report added the goal of cutting world poverty in half by 2015 may be met because of economic growth in China and India.

The report again called for foreign aid to be doubled to $100 billion annually. Of the current $50 billion to $55 billion, only a fraction was spent on implementing Millennium goals, it said.

"Every European cow is getting a $3 a day subsidy whereas 40 percent of Africans live on less than $1 a day," Malloch Brown said. In the United States, cotton farmers received subsidies of $10.7 million a day, three times higher than US aid to sub-Saharan Africa, he said.

The report argued for a broader view of how to lift the least developed nations out of extreme poverty rather than the "Washington consensus" of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund that included budget discipline, deregulation and the liberalization of trade and finance.

It contended a single set of policies for all countries could do more harm than good. *Reuters*

Brazil gov't employees strike vs pension reform

RIO DE JANEIRO—About half of Brazil's public workers went on strike across Brazil on Tuesday protesting President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's plans to tax retirement benefits, aimed at slashing the country's pension system's massive debt.

It is the first major labor protest that Lula—a leftist former metal worker and union leader—has faced in his six months in office.

The reforms, which seek to put government workers' pensions on equal footing with the less-attractive pension packages of private-sector workers, are seen by the strikers as a "betrayal" by Lula.

Many in the business community, however, see this as a way to slash the pension system's $18-billion deficit.

In Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Curitiba, Salvador and Belo Horizonte, half of civil servants have stopped work for 72 hours and will meet Friday to decide whether to continue the strike, union officials said.

In Rio de Janeiro, federal workers went on strike but maintained essential services. Police are maintaining minimum surveillance in the airports, and demonstrators met outside police headquarters downtown to distribute fliers explaining their position. *AFP*

Series of attacks in Iraq injures 7 US soldiers

BAGHDAD—A blistering series of attacks, coming nearly hourly, left seven US soldiers wounded in and around the Iraqi capital while the US-led authority in charge of the country announced a US$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone who kills a coalition soldier or Iraqi police officer.

US defense officials, meanwhile, raised their count of Americans killed by hostile fire in Iraq since the war began in March to 143, a figure that approaches the 147 killed in the 1991 Gulf War.

The reward is an effort to stem a spiraling insurgency that has plagued coalition efforts to bring security and basic services to Iraq. Last week, the US-led authority that runs Iraq announced a US$25 million bounty on the head of Saddam Hussein, and a US$15 million reward for the capture of each of his two sons.

"I urge the Iraqi people to come forward to take these people off the streets of the country," said Bernard Kerik, a former New York City police official who is helping to rebuild Iraq's force.

He also said US forces and Iraqi police had arrested Sabah Mirza, a former Saddam bodyguard, on June 26.

Mirza was Saddam's bodyguard in the 1980s before being fired over a dispute. His current connection to the former Iraqi dictator was not clear, but a raid on Mirza's farm netted plastic explosives, mortars, a machine gun and 10,000 rounds of ammunition.

On Tuesday, US soldiers raided a building in central Baghdad, following up on a claim by residents that say they thought they saw Saddam driving through the area on Monday, and say the ousted leader was met with cheering and gunfire by supporters.

Several pro-Saddam residents chanted pro-Saddam slogans on Tuesday as the US servicemen conducted their sweep, with some singing: "With our souls and our blood we sacrifice ourselves for you Saddam."

The last reported sighting of Saddam was April 9 in the Azamiyah neighborhood of northeastern Baghdad as the capital fell to US troops.

L. Paul Bremer, the top US official in Iraq, said the coalition would not rest until Saddam's fate was determined and reassured Iraqis that he would never again rule their country.

"He may be alive, but he is not coming back," Bremer said. "I think the noose is going to tighten around his neck. His days in Iraq are finished."

Tuesday brought fresh attacks in what has become a bloody and uncertain peace for coalition forces.

Insurgents dropped a homemade bomb from a bridge onto a passing US military convoy in Baghdad, injuring two soldiers. Another two soldiers were injured when their vehicle struck a land mine in the capital, said Sgt. Patrick Compton, a US spokesperson. *AP*

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THE MANAGASIS and their new family member GRACE ALBASIN

Baby Lorenzo finally meets grandparents

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—"Is this a dream?" Pedro Managasi and his wife Lita asked while waiting for the arrival of their grandson Lorenzo at the airport here on Monday morning.

Minutes later, the couple still could not believe what was happening, even as they alternately held Lorenzo in their arms Lorenzo.

The search for Lorenzo started after the INQUIRER published on June 15 Pedro's plea for help in finding his grandson.

The baby's mother, Ana Liza, died during caesarian delivery. She had pneumonia, high blood and a weak heart.

"I thought we would never see him. We thought he had also died because we never heard of him. We have put everything under God's care because there was nothing we can do about it due to hardship," Lita said in Visayan.

Lita said she and her husband even summoned Ana Liza's spirit to help them with their search for Lorenzo.

"We knew that Ana Liza's soul would not rest because we felt she was with us, prompting us to start the search for Lorenzo," Lita said.

Pedro said he even heard a baby's cry a few hours after Ana Liza's death. "That incident was etched on my mind," he said.

The Managasis failed to attend their daughter's funeral.

"We didn't have money to travel to Lucena City," Lita said. Ana Liza left for Lucena six years ago.

"We had felt her presence since the day she died until the day Lorenzo was finally found. I told Ana Liza to go on in (sic) the next life since her baby was already found, and we promised her we would raise Lorenzo the best (way) we could," Lita said.

The couple had sought the help of the local government in their search for their grandson, but to no avail.

When the INQUIRER came out with their story, many people responded and tried to help locate the baby.

The Managasis said the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Lucena did not even intervene, even by providing shelter for the baby, who was born premature at 7 months.

The Managasis expressed their gratitude to Angela Fruto, who brought Lorenzo to them, Salvador Valdez, Jun Yee, Sam Telo and Delfin Mallari Jr., an INQUIRER correspondent based in Lucena.

"We also thank those who, in their hearts, would want to help but (could) not, (but) did it through prayer. Your prayers and concern matter so much to us," Lita said.

Fruitful search done with touching drama

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Nong Pedro Managasi, the poor farmer from Quezon, Bukidnon, can now finally feel and embrace the warm reality of a fatherly wish: To have with him his grandson who serves as the only remaining memory of her late daughter, Ana Liza.

Three-month-old Ann Lorenzo Managasi arrived in Cagayan de Oro City yesterday.

Angela Fruto, Media Works operations manager, who voluntarily assisted in locating the baby, played as his surrogate mother since Thursday, after she picked up the child and prepared him for the trip back home to his ancestral roots.

A touching human drama unfolded after Nong Pedro's wish was publicized almost three weeks ago. Countless messages, even from unlisted cell phone numbers, were texted from Mindanao to Luzon and vice-versa, even in the dead of night, sending every bit of information that could fill in the void in their search for the baby.

When she read the article, Fruto said she immediately contacted the office of Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr., who happened to be a friend of her father's.

On March 29, Ana Liza died in a government hospital here as she gave birth to her love child. Based on the hospital records, a certain Honorio Magpantay was recorded as the father.

In Barangay Dalahican, where Ana Liza and her live-in partner resided before her death, the neighbors said they waited for several days for her family from Bukidnon to reclaim the body.

The neighborhood leader said the mayor shouldered all the expenses during the wake and the burial. Ana Liza eked out a living by selling snacks at the nearby elementary school.

When the INQUIRER found Greenly Tapaling, Ana Liza's friend and town mate. Tapaling disclosed that Magpantay, who has a family of his own, entrusted the child to the care of a friend who lives on the outskirts of the city, after the baby was released from the hospital.

But after two months, the friend, who also has a family of her own, complained of the added financial burden of raising the newborn. The last information that the friend gave was that Magpantay brought the baby to a childless relative, to put him up for adoption.

Carlito Fruto, arrived from Quezon, Bukidnon to join in the search. He was requested by Nong Pedro to bring back the baby to Bukidnon. He stayed with Tapaling's brother in the vast industrial compound owned by a local Chinese businessman.

According to Fruto, he desperately sought the help of every local office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, till he found the baby in San Antonio, Quezon as an adopted child of the couple Ben and Sonia Ulan, Magpantay's relative.

"I'm just lucky that I found the baby before I ran out of money," Fruto said.

When he found the child, the child already carried a new name, Lorenzo Ulan, given him by his adoptive parents when he was baptized.

After explaining to the Ulans the reason for his search, the adoptive parents gave up custody of the infant. The local DSWD office in San Antonio assisted in the documentation of the custody transfer.

Tapaling said Magpantay went into hiding when he was informed that media people and several parties were looking for the child.

Anti-drug spray paint drive back

By Anthony S. Allada, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DAVAO CITY—Reminiscent of former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim's spray-painting campaign against drug pushers, the city police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency adopted the same move despite a court ruling saying it was illegal.

Police and PDEA personnel yesterday started to mark the houses of alleged drug pushers with "Alsa Drug Supporters" in red, bold letters.

Thirty houses on Piapi Boulevard, SIR Matina and San Pedro Extension—areas that are known havens for suspected drug pushers in the police watch list—have been spray-painted.

Senior Supt. Conrado Laza, city police chief, and Supt. Wilkins Villanueva, PDEA chief, led the campaign.

Laza said the words were carefully chosen in order not to violate a Supreme Court ruling. He said the police had no bad intention in marking the houses.

Residents, however, said the markings might make them targets of the Davao Death Squad, believed to be behind the killings of drugs pushers here.

Some of the houses have new occupants.

Laza said the campaign was a reminder to everybody of their commitment to rid the city of drug pushers.

He said it resulted in the surrender of about 200 drug users and pushers in the city.

Even if they surrendered, Laza said, they would still be under tight watch to find out if they were true to their commitment to stop drug pushing. Otherwise, he said, "it would be better for them to leave the city."

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he doubted if the "surrenderers" would not go back to their activity. But he accepted them on the condition that they would all undergo rehabilitation.

The mayor also asked them to report daily to the police headquarters.

He said he would look for funds for the drug rehabilitation. "I will hire doctors and nurses for you. I will provide you everything—food and programs—to show you that killings will not solve the drug problem," Duterte said.

If it would be feasible, he said, he would even give their families P2,000 to sustain daily needs, while they are undergoing rehabilitation.

Earlier, Duterte said the city government would establish a rehabilitation center for people who have been into drugs.

In Lapulapu City, Cebu, police are looking into the possible existence of a vigilante group in connection with the shooting of three suspected drug pushers in less than a month.

The latest incident happened on Monday night, when two unidentified men shot dead Eric Dimala, 29, an alleged drug peddler.

SP04 Geoffrey Baguio, chief of the Homicide Section in the Lapulapu police, said the killing had a pattern similar to two previous shooting incidents involving suspected drug pushers in the city.

On June 19, two men on a motorcycle shot three times Pepito Tripon, 27, in Sitio Look, Barangay Maribago.

Three empty shells of a .45 cal. pistol were received in the crime scene.

Tripon was brought to the Mactan Community Hospital. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

18 policemen linked to drug trade probed

BACOLOD CITY—Police regional authorities are investigating 18 policemen who have been tagged as protectors of illegal drug trade in Western Visayas.

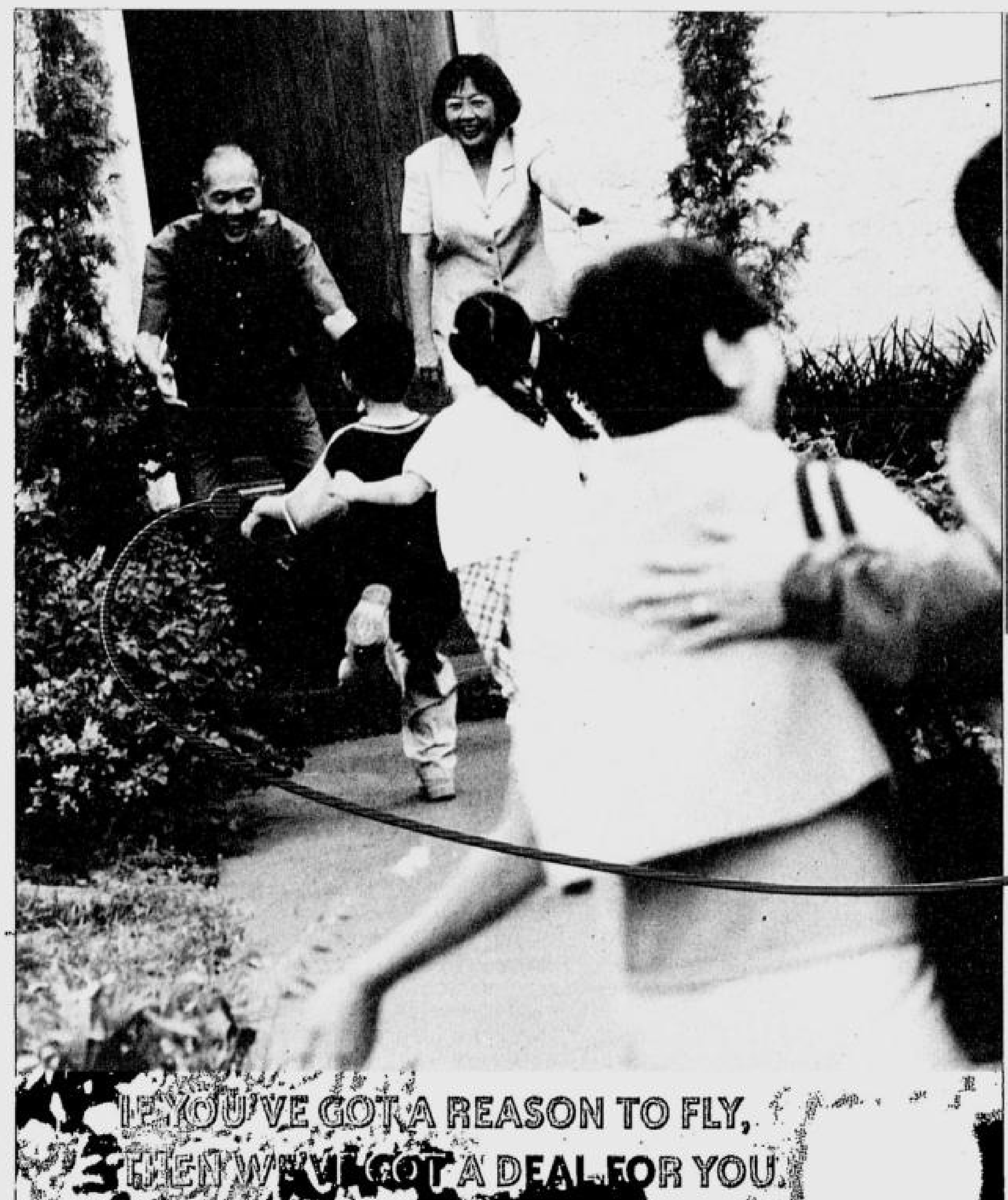
Senior Supt. Felix Muchada, deputy regional director for administration, said the investigation would determine the veracity of intelligence reports linking the policemen to illegal drug syndicates. He, however, declined to give the names of the policemen, pending results of the investigation.

Muchada, however, admitted that 15 of them were accused of being protectors of a suspected drug lord based in Negros Occidental. Of the 15, he added, four were assigned on Panay Island.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said the 18 policemen should have long been removed from the service.

He said the police regional office (PRO-6) should have furnished him with the names of the policemen. "The police should answer why these alleged protectors of the illegal drug trade are being tolerated."

Marañon said the suspects should be named, otherwise the good name of the whole police organization would be affected. "We do not want the whole organization to be affected by a few," he said. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*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ROUNDUP

Woman drowns

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—A woman drowned after she was swept by strong current while trying to save a 10-year-old girl in a river at the Biak-na-Bato National Park on Sunday. Police said Ivy Sadueste, 22, of Laguna, was taking Maria Isabel Castillo, 10, to the riverbank in Bahay Paniki when the current swept them. Castillo, police said, survived. Sadueste was the fourth drowning victim in the park since January. Residents said the Parks and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which administers the park, had failed to install warning signs for tourists swimming in the river.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fake gold bars

ANGELES CITY—Police in Porac town have arrested a man for selling some P300,000 worth of fake gold bars to two persons. Jimmy de la Cruz and his companions reportedly sold nine gold bars to Roy Manalang and Jonalyn David on July 4. But the buyers found the bars to be fake when they went to this city to have them authenticated. Police arrested De la Cruz in Barangay Dila-Dila in Porac on Sunday. His companions remained at large. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Watershed project

BAGUIO CITY—Environment officials are planting more than two million gmelina seedlings and pine trees in a 1,610-hectare watershed in the mining town of Itogon, Benguet, to replace trees razed by fires. Rudolf Degay, head of the technical support unit of the Itogon Integrated Watershed Management Project (IIWMP), said they have set aside P47 million to buy seedlings to be used in the project.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Indian trader slain

IMUS, Cavite—Two unidentified armed men shot dead an Indian trader while he was collecting loan payments in Barangay Pasong Buaya here on Monday. Police said the victim, Amrik, alias Jimmy Bombay, 37, of Barangay Ligas, Bacoor, was doing his collection rounds when he was shot at close range with a 9-mm pistol. The assailants took the victim's money and motorcycle.

Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village official killed

TANZA, Cavite—A village councilor was shot dead by his companion with an Armalite rifle during a heated argument in Barangay Tanauan here on Monday night, police said. The victim, Teodulo Romea, 39, suffered multiple bullet wounds in different parts of the body and was declared dead on arrival at the St. Mark Hospital. The suspect, Bernardo Espili, is now the object of a police manhunt. *Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern LuzonBureau*

PMA cadet hurt

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A Philippine Military Academy cadet was hurt on Monday when his head hit the pavement during a taekwondo practice match at the athletic complex here. A PMA statement said Cadet Fourth Class John Heinrich Francisco fell and hit his head when his sparring partner, Cadet Fourth Class Mark Payumo, kicked his face during practice. Francisco, whose head cover was removed due to the kick's impact, lost balance and fell on a concrete floor outside of the cushion mat where he and Payumo were practicing. Francisco was taken to the PMA Station Hospital and transferred to the Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart where he was declared to be in stable condition.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 in extort held

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two men were arrested on Friday by National Bureau of Investigation agents after they allegedly tried to extort money from a Metro Manila based architect. Architect Felino Palafox said the suspects, identified as Carlos de Guzman and Francisco Laureano, claimed to have connections with the New People's Army. The two, both residents of Cabanatuan City, were arrested in a shopping mall where they were to get the money. According to Palafox, De Guzman used to be his company's driver. Laureano, the brother-in-law of De Guzman, applied for a job in 2001. The extortion attempt, he said, began on June 16. He declined to cite the amount but said it was a "big sum for me."

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wanted men fall

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The two most wanted persons in Benguet were arrested during police operations last week. In Kibungan town, police arrested Manuel Paras-e, 43, in his house in Barangay Nalicob on July 1. Paras-e, a native of Mt. Province, is facing rape charges. Policemen arrested the most wanted person in La Trinidad town in another operation in Baguio City. Arrested was Dicky Kito Thomas, 20, of Barangay Alno, this town, who is facing robbery charges.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Accidental firing

ILAGAN, Isabela—A woman who was trying to break a fight between her husband and her brother-in-law was killed when the latter accidentally shot her in Barangay Arusip here on Monday. Police identified the victim as Josephine Cabanilla, 36. Reports said the suspect, Manolo Cabanilla, 35, had a quarrel with his brother, Herminio, Josephine's husband, after a drinking spree. Josephine interceded when she saw Manolo pull out a .38 cal. revolver. Manolo claimed he fired his gun in the air and was surprised to see his sister-in-law sprawled on the ground. Josephine died while being taken to a hospital.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Drug suspect nabbed

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police arrested an alleged illegal drug dealer in Guagua town last week. Supt. Audie Atienza, Guagua police chief, identified the suspect as Monasaro Minalang, 27, of Barangay San Pablo. Atienza said policemen seized 11.5 grams of shabu in five plastic sachets from Minalang when she was arrested on July 4 in her house in Guagua.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

SHIPPING FIRM: NO FINDING

Villagers report oil spill in Palawan

By Jofelle Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Authorities are investigating reports of an oil spill from coastal villagers who claimed that it has damaged mangroves and other marine resources near Sitio Olangoan and Green Island in Roxas town in Palawan.

Inocencio Magallanes, head of the environmental group Haribon Palawan, said some residents in the coastal Barangays of Roxas complained Sunday of oil spill that had been affecting their livelihood. Most of them earn their living from catching fingerlings or milkfish (*bangus*) fry on the shoreline.

Magallanes said a group has been formed to ascertain the ecological impact and damage caused by the oil spill.

The residents claimed that a big commercial ship hit a coral reef a week ago, resulting in the oil spill, he said.

Philippine Coast Guard district commander Reynaldo Trajano said they had already sent a boat and a team to verify the reports.

He said they also requested another team from Manila to get oil samples. He said oil retrieval operations would be immediately started.

A vessel, the Superferry 1, which is owned by WG&A, accidentally bumped a coral reef on June 29, causing damage to the hull, according to the shipping company's manager Danny Magaway.

Magaway said they immediately sent experts and divers to check on possible oil spills. Boats and planes were scattered around the area but they found nothing, he said.

"If there are reports, we have to know so that we could help," he said.

Passengers of the Superferry were safely transferred to another ship.

Magaway said the ship followed the charted route, but added that the coral reef was unmarked.

The provincial council yesterday called representatives from Maritime Industry Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Ports Authority, and WG&A to shed light on the matter and other maritime accidents in Palawan.

On May 25, Superferry 12 collided with the MV San Nicolas, a passenger ship plying Manila and Coron, Palawan, in the Manila Bay near Corregidor Island. Many of the fatalities were residents of Coron, Culion, Linapacan and San Vicente.

RELATIVES and friends of the late First Lt. Peter James Angeles oppose his cremation at the crematorium of the Dagupan City Eternal Gardens.
RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Military execs step into burial row

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—The mother of slain Capt. Peter James Angeles has accepted the military's proposal to bury her son's body at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Makati City, easing the tension among the Army officer's relatives who have disagreed over the planned cremation of his remains.

Angeles, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 2000, was one of 13 soldiers killed in an ambush by communist rebels in Compostela Valley on June 30.

His mother Josie, 52, said there would be no more negotiations between her and and her daughter-in-law, Dr. Claudine Marie Peleo-Angeles, 26, who wanted to cremate the remains of her husband.

"When we arrive there (Fort Bonifacio) today (July 10, Thursday), the burial site must be ready and my son must be immediately buried. There will be no more wake and definitely, no cremation," the mother said.

The body was scheduled to be taken to Fort Bonifacio on Wednesday night. The burial is scheduled today.

As the negotiations were ongoing, the hearse bearing Angeles coffin stayed for two days at the Eternal Gardens crematorium here.

Claudine, who is staying in Baguio City, arranged for Angeles' body to be taken to the crematorium. The sealed coffin arrived at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Angeles' mother and her relatives from Bautista, Pangasinan, however, protested and stalled the scheduled cremation. Some of them were carrying placards protesting the soldier's cremation.

The decision to take the body to the Libingan ng mga Bayani was made after military officials talked with Josie and Claudine, according to Col. Johnny Corcha, chief of staff of the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

Corcha said the Angeles feuding relatives agreed to their proposal.

"The decision has been reached. I am happy that my son will be buried already. I still love my daughter-in-law, but I won't talk to her anymore (about this matter)," Josie said.

On Tuesday, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes called Josie and suggested that her son be buried at the Libingan to break the stalemate between her and her daughter-in-law.

Earlier, Angeles' relatives appealed to Claudine, who is three months pregnant, to reconsider her decision and allow them to bury Angeles in his hometown in Bautista, about 30 km from this city.

"*Hindi natin kultura 'yan* (Cremation is not practiced in our culture)," Josie told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Angeles' father, also an Army soldier, was killed in a clash with rebels in Mindanao before he was born. Angeles was an only child.

Slain NPA man buried in Laguna hometown

MAGDALENA, Laguna—Around a hundred relatives and friends of slain New People's Army leader Raul "Ka Jonas" Masongsong joined the funeral march on Tuesday in his hometown.

The mourners held a banner giving tribute to the rebel leader in Laguna and pledged that "the arms that had fallen will be picked up by new fighters who will continue the struggle until victory."

Masongsong was killed in an encounter between NPA rebels and government troops in General Nakar town in Quezon on June 28.

The human rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, which sent a "Quick Reaction Team" after the incident, claimed that the remains of Masongsong were "desecrated."

"They did not just kill him, they still made him suffer," a relative said.

Relatives showed pictures of Masongsong while in an NPA area. One picture was of him and Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal.

"He was always very kind, he was always serving others. If anyone asked for help, he always gave what he could," one of the relatives said.

Farmers from Laguna and Quezon also gave tribute to Masongsong who, they said, taught them how to protect and uphold the rights of farmers to their land.

Other sectors also honored Masongsong for "giving his life for others."

Masongsong was said to have joined the NPA when he was just 18 years old. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Reds slam reported plan on 'embedded journalists'

LUCENA CITY—Communist spokesman Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal laughed off the reported military plan to adopt "embedded journalists" to report on the actual goings-on in the field in the face of successive rebuffs on the real casualty score against communist rebels in recent encounters.

"It seems that the military would now want a certification from the media regarding their supposed score against us. It's part of the imaginative but shallow psywar propaganda," Rosal told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

However, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Narciso Abaya, said, "we haven't gone to that yet."

"I don't think that we are ready to get journalists with our operating troops. Maybe on a certain level," he told newsmen yesterday during his visit here in Camp Nakar, headquarters of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command.

Abaya said it would not be applicable in Mindanao where every troop is always on the move.

Embedded journalists came into prominence during the recent war in Iraq. The tri-media reporters had all risked their lives to make live reports from where the action was.

The embedded journalists traveled with the troops with the approval of the United States and British governments.

Rosal warned media practitioners not to practice embedded journalism to avoid being co-opted in the military's psywar campaign.

He said he fear for the safety of the media who could be accidentally caught in the crossfire.

"Remember photojournalist Willie Vicoy? We don't want a repeat of the same accident," he explained.

Reuters photojournalist Willie Vicoy died in 1986. Vicoy and several journalists were with a military convoy returning from a town in Cagayan that had been raided by the New People's Army when communist rebels ambushed them.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NDF pays tribute to Fortich

BACOLOD CITY—The communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) has sent their condolences to the family of Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich, who died last week.

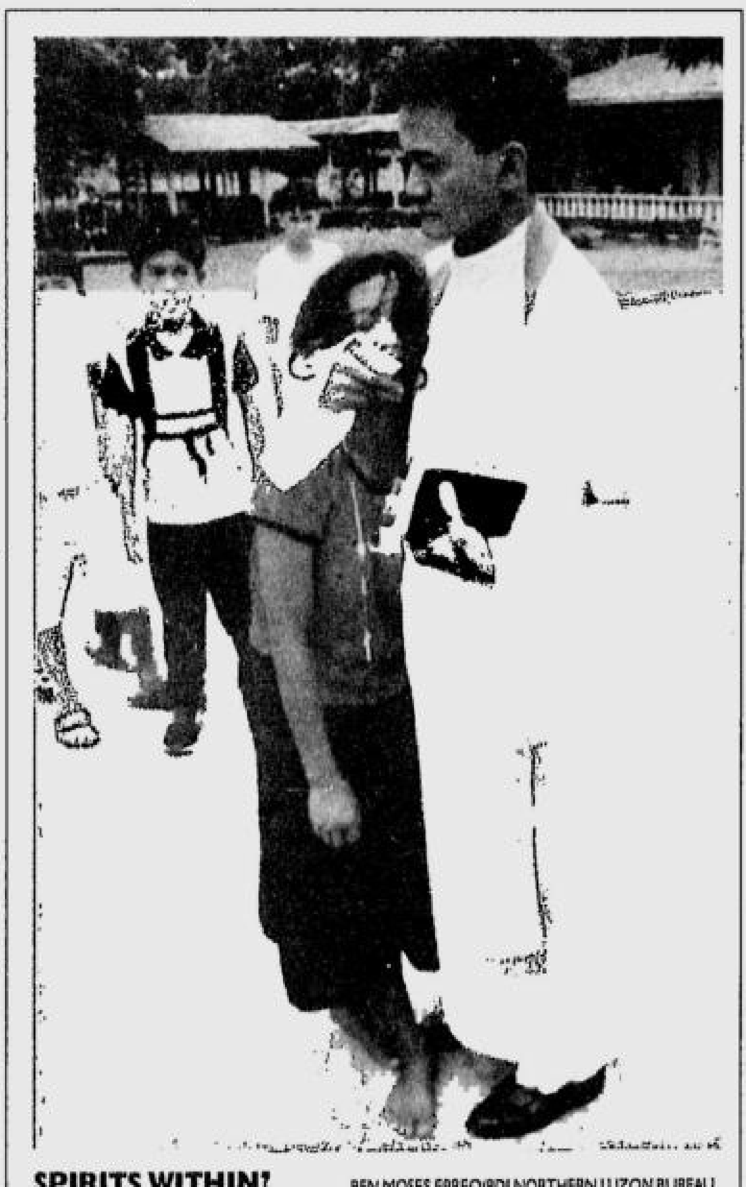
NDF spokesperson Luis Jalandoni and his wife Coni Ledesma, who are both based in the Netherlands, said they were deeply saddened by the death of Fortich whom they called a great man and a dear friend.

"Fortich is dead but his spirit lives on in the hearts of people whose lives he touched and inspired," they said in a two-page tribute sent from the Netherlands.

"For all of us, and for generation to come who will carry forward Monsignor Fortich's high ideals of social justice, genuine land reform, enduring peace based on justice and his commitment to uphold the dignity and freedom of the struggling people, we will feel his presence, his strength and his enduring inspiration," they said.

Before joining the revolutionary movement, Jalandoni was a priest of the Diocese of Bacolod who was appointed by Fortich to head the Diocese Social Action Center in the late 1960s.

Jalandoni went underground and joined the revolutionary movement when Martial Law was declared. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



SPIRITS WITHIN! BEN MOSES EBREO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Fr. Rancy Alfonso of the Philippine Independent Church exorcises one of the 25 students of the Tuao South National High School in Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, who were allegedly possessed by evil spirits since last week.

Maguindanao flood victims need relief aid

By Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—At least 10 towns of Maguindanao need relief assistance for families whose houses were submerged due to flash floods brought about by torrential rains over the past few days.

Reports from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) identified the flooded towns as Pagagawan, Pagalungan, Sultan sa Barongis, Datu Piang, Kabuntalan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Buluan, SK Pendatun, Ampatuan and Paglat.

Lita Enok, OCD director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said hundreds of residents had evacuated from their houses and were staying with relatives or in public buildings.

In Pagagawan, some 60 families left for higher grounds as floodwaters began to rise on Monday following successive heavy downpour that caused tributaries of the Liguasan Marsh and Rio Grande de Mindanao to overflow.

"It's a pitiful scenario, seeing mostly women and children crying for help as flood waters roused them from their sleep," said Palma Montawal, barangay chair of Kadingilan.

Two families in the village needed relief assistance, Montawal said.

The latest calamity affected even evacuees displaced by fighting between government troops and Moro rebels.

"Hundreds (of evacuees) were seen trooping toward the national highway since the other day (Monday)," Montawal said.

Even the Pagagawan town hall was not spared, the village official said. Residents and newly resettled families at the Buliok Complex in Pagalungan and Pikit were also affected.

Reports of crop damage and missing work animals were being looked into by agriculture field workers.

Nabil Tan, ARMM executive secretary, said he had directed the region's social and relief agency to immediately provide assistance to the flood victims.

Food, clothing, blankets are the priority needs of the flood victims, he said.

"It is very unfortunate that while we are still trying to work for the resettlement of evacuees dislocated by the so-called man-made calamity, here we are confronted with nature's wrath," Tan said.

He urged the regional legislative assembly to pass a law that would ensure the continuous dredging of the Rio Grande de Mindanao to prevent flooding in the future.

Enok said parts of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, particularly villages bounded by the Liguasan Marsh, were also reported to be underwater due to the swelling of rivers.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 423 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Hard-hitting columnist for tabloid gunned down

By Ronaldo Dizon and Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

LA PAZ, Tarlac—A columnist for a tabloid circulated in Tarlac was gunned down in front of his house in Barangay Caramutan here on Tuesday night.

Police said Bonifacio Gregorio, 55, who wrote a hard-hitting column for the local weekly Dyaryo Banat, succumbed to three bullet wounds in the head.

A lone gunman attacked Gregorio at 7:30 p.m. while he was talking to another media person, Abel Pablo, in his mobile phone, police said.

"I was talking to him when suddenly I heard three gunshots and then a voice saying, '*Patay na! Patay na!* (He's dead! He's dead!).' A few minutes later, I heard the cries of women," Pablo said.

SPO3 Pablo Pineda, chief investigator, said Gregorio was shot at close range.

According to the victim's wife Gertrudes, her husband had a pending libel case filed by a village official in La Paz, about 20 km from the capital Tarlac City.

At the time of his death, Gregorio was working on a story involving the supposed lack of permits in the construction of a memorial park. Local officials, however, told the INQUIRER that the project's documents were in order.

"*Ayoko na sanang magsulat siya dahil maraming nagagalit sa mga sinusulat n'ya sa diyaryo* (I was asking him to stop writing because he had been earning the ire of many people because of his critical columns)," Gertrudes said.

Mayor Dionisio Manuel condemned Gregorio's murder and said he had asked the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to help in the investigation.

Senior Supt. Angelo Sunglao, Tarlac police director, formed a task force to conduct a separate investigation of the murder.

Boracay resort says rally illegal

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—The management of a high-end resort on this island has accused opponents of a plan to put up a casino on the resort of holding an illegal protest rally.

Benjamin Banzon, resident manager of the Club Panoly, said the overnight prayer rally held on Saturday near their resort was illegal because it lacked a permit.

The resort, situated at a secluded area in Barangay Yapak, was the proposed site of the casino to be operated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

"It's their right to hold a protest as long as they do it legally," Banzon told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. He said the protesters were denied permission by Yapak village chief Hector Casidsid.

Banzon said the resort's operations were not affected, but guests had asked about the "noise." He said they were studying if they would file a case against the protesters.

Protesters led by the Holy Rosary Parish prayed the rosary and sang religious songs near the resort to dramatize their opposition to the casino.

The vigil followed a protest rally along the beach joined by around 2,000 residents.

Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 10, 2003
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 4:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5
Gospel: Mt 10:7-15

Jesus said to his disciples. "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking-stick: workers deserve their living.

"When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

"As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you.

"And if you are not welcomed and your words are not listened to, leave that house or that town and shake the dust off your feet. I assure you, it will go easier for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than it will for the people of that town."

Commentary

So that they need not be concerned about their material security, the Apostles are instructed to have such confidence in Providence. Indeed, when Church people are caught up in the business of the world, they easily become countersigns of the Kingdom where the poor are blessed. On the other hand, recipients of their ministry are acquainted with their responsibility to support their ministers. How much more effective (or simply prepared) will ministers of the Word and the sacraments be if they were freed from mundane affairs! The conflict presented itself early in the life of the Church, but the Twelve were quick and firm in its resolution: "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at tables . . . we shall appoint (reputable men) to this task" (Acts 5:2-3).

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
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MIMI (left) and 6-month-old Kali RODOLFO MEIM ACEBES

Kali's family brings hope to the tamaraw

By Rodolfo Meim Acebes
Contributor

KALI, 4 years old, is robust and strong like his father Charlie, 20. Kali's behavior, as years add to his age, begins to be like his father's. He is now becoming aloof, fierce, untrusting and wild.

His mother Mimi, 18, is also aloof, fierce, untrusting and wild.

Charlie, Mami and Kali belong to the family of *Bovidae*, to the class of *Mammalia*, in the order of *Artiodactyla*. To the scientific world, they belong to the genus *Babalus* and to the species *Mindorensis*. Their common name is tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*).

Found in no other place on Earth except on Mindoro Island, the tamaraw in the early 1900s had a population of around 10,000. However, a dramatic decline of the population occurred in 1930, when many died due to the outbreak of rinderpest, an infectious disease of the animal's intestines.

Man's hunting of the tamaraw for illicit trade and trophy, and for recreation and food also contributed to the decrease of its population. Habitat destruction, illegal logging and slash-and-burn agriculture (*kaingin*) aggravated the depletion of this treasure of mankind.

Sanctuary

In 1965, the plight of the tamaraw and the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyii*) was given attention at the Bangkok Conference of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (now known as the World Conservation Union).

In response, the Philippine government created an agency that would help conserve the tamaraw species and habitat.

Thus was born the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP), a special project of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Its aim is to save the tamaraw from extinction by conserving its habitat and breeding it.

It was also established to serve as a sanctuary for the tamaraw in the event a catastrophe, like the outbreak of rinderpest, occurs.

Danilo Z. Roca, TCP field operation assistant based in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, said the TCP gene pool farm had four tamaraws in captivity. With Charlie, Mimi and Kali is Dabu, 20.

The four are placed in separate enclosures at the TCP gene pool farm located in the mountainous part of Sitio Canturoy, Barangay Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro.

The 280-hectare gene pool farm is fully enclosed with interlink cyclone wire. It is inside the 75,445-hectare Mt. Liglit-Baco National Park, which was declared a reservation area by Republic Act No. 6148 in 1970.

Gene pool

From San Jose, where the airport and pier have daily trips from Manila and Batangas, visitors have to travel by jeep on a rugged road for about two hours to reach the gene pool farm.

Group tours are arranged at the Protected Area Office (PAO) in San Jose. Park superintendent Redante D. Diwa gives clearance and coordinates the tour to Mt. Canturoy.

Tamaraw rangers Allen Galanto, Susano Bunagan, Victor Espeleta and Saturnino Torres are at the farm to guide tourists and visitors. A multi-purpose building can house about 70 persons while tents can be put up on clearings.

Each of the captive tamaraws are kept inside an 800-square-meter plot. They are fed with napier and para grass, grown and harvested by the rangers from the nearby forage farm.

By connecting pipes, the gene pool is supplied with continuous flow of clean water from Mount Takao's natural spring.

From 1979 to 1994, the TCP focused on capturing the tamaraw for breeding program. How to capture the animal takes patience, said Roca.

The rangers seek the foot trail of the animal. A pit trap, measuring six feet deep, three feet wide and six feet long, is dug. The dug earth is thrown far away from the pit. A cover above the pit is laid, camouflaged with a thin layer of sand and dried burnt grasses.

Burning the grasses is a must to completely erase the scent of humans because the tamaraw has a powerful sense of smell. It can detect the presence of a person a mile away.

Rangers visit the pit trap everyday to check if a tamaraw is caught.

They prepare a cage above the pit where the tamaraw is driven. The cage is completely covered, except for a hole where food is placed.

Ferocious

Humans must not be seen by the captured tamaraw because of its ferocity, which can either destroy the cage or hurt the animal.

The tamaraw is noted for its fierceness when cornered. It attacks even when slightly wounded.

A military helicopter flies all the way from Manila to lift the cage and bring the captive to the enclosed habitat at the TCP gene pool.

From 1982 to 1994, 29 tamaraws were captured in the Aruyan Valley in Sablayan town in Occidental Mindoro. Of these, only nine have survived. The others died of mysterious disease and old age.

From Charlie and Mimi's union, the child tamaraw was born on June 24, 1999. To name him, the TCP launched a contest with awards of trophy, plaque and cash.

Nova Embanecido, a student of the local state college in San Jose won her entry "Kalibasib," short for Kalikasang Bagong Sibol. It eventually became Kali.

Tamaraw count

Josefina Lopez de Leon, supervising ecosystem management specialist and chief of the Wildlife Programs of the DENR, is, at the same time, the TCP coordinator in Mindoro.

She regularly leaves her office in Quezon City to go to the Mt. Iglit Baco Reservation, which was declared the Asean Heritage Park in 1980.

De Leon said that on April 22-26, the Tamaraw Bantay Team, composed of rangers, local government officials and volunteers, counted from their observation stations 261 tamaraws roaming the entire Mt. Iglit-Baco National Park.

The head count, added De Leon, was the TCP's endeavor.

Each observation station, volunteered Roca, who was with her chief during the interview, is in an elevated area, far from where the tamaraws are.

They are seen in herds of six, including an adult bull of a cow, a calf and bull of not more than three to five years old.

The tamaraws go to patches of woody vegetation, browsing on new buds and leaves. They are noticed to go to where there are cogon and talahib grasses.

In synchronized and well-coordinated manner, the teams—armed with telescopes, compass and handheld radios—watched and noted down the tamaraw's head count from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The tamaraws feed in the morning and rest in the afternoon.

Hunters

In the last week of April, De Leon said she was with her rangers and volunteers, 30 persons in all, in running after three hunters who illegally entered the reservation to hunt.

The hunters, armed with shotguns, were captured by her team. Though unarmed—rangers are not authorized to bear arms—they applied psywar tactics to flush the suspects out of hiding.

Shouting to them to surrender as military men had surrounded them, the hunters emerged from the cogon grass with their bounty—dead reindeer.

Charged with illegal possession of firearms before the Prosecutor's Office in San Jose, the hunters were likewise indicted for violating RA No. 7586, or the National Integrated Protection Area System of 1992, and RA No. 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

The protection of the wild population and habitat of the tamaraw is the priority project of the TCP. Its mission of habitat conservation includes the monitoring and protection of the tamaraw reservations in Mt. Calavite and the Eagle Pass in Occidental Mindoro and the mountain ranges of Victoria, Bansud, Bongabon and Mansalay towns in Oriental Mindoro.

To attain these objectives, facility improvement, hiring of experts and capture of more female breed should be pursued.

The last 10 years of research has gained significant experiences for the TCP, especially with the birth of Kali. More experiences are set to come because Mimi is suspected to be pregnant again.

All the activities of the TCP need financial assistance. But first, the government should give top priority to the 34 men and women of the TCP because, after all these years of hard but unnoticed work, they are still not given permanent appointment in the government.

THE AUTHOR, a retired employee of the National Bureau of Investigation, got interested in the tamaraw because one of his friends in a group called "Kalikasan" was involved in the tamaraw conservation project.

'Pili Barong': Designer dress for the Sorsoganon

By Emir Gamis
Sorsogon City

IF THE suggestion of Irma Guhit, Philippine Information Agency manager in Sorsogon, would appeal to top officials in the province, it would be easy to know a Sorsoganon by identifying him through his dress.

And not just an ordinary dress, but the "Polo Barong" with a twist—"Pili Barong."

"We must have a (sense of) identity even just in the way we dress, especially if we would like to promote *pili*. Even in our social and official functions, especially during formal occasions, the *pili* fruit is a design that can be hand-painted on your *barong*," said Guhit, who also conceptualized the first Sorsogon Pili Festival in 2000.

"When you don that *barong*, you should feel good that you're a Sorsogueño. Wherever you go, you have a mark," she added.

Catching on, Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee donned a Patis Tesoro gown with *pili* fruit patches during her recent State of the City address on the provincial capitol grounds.

Lee had the gown made last year and usually uses it during official functions in Manila, Guhit said.

Recognition

The PIA official said an insignia of *pili* on government officials and employees' dresses would readily recognize a person as a Sorsoganon.

Representatives for the WOW Philippines presentation in Manila this September, especially the Sorsogon Choir and all city officials, for instance, will be wearing dresses with hand-painted *pili* designs to show that they are from Sorsogon, according to Guhit.

She further suggested using different colored *pili* designs to designate ranks: green for barangay officials, green and violet for municipal officials and black for provincial officials.

"It has promotional value. You don't have to say anything because it's a language in its own. Even your *barong* is a language in its own," Guhit said.

She recommended that festival activities should zero in on the word "*pili*," like "Piling-piling Mag-aaral, Mamamayan, Imbentor, and Dilag at Binata ng Sorsogon."

Sorsogon held a 10-day Pili Festival that ended on June 28. The yearly event also highlighted a street dancing showing the evolution of the *pili* fruit, from budding to maturity and harvest.

Champion

"High commodity champion" pili (*Canarium ovatum*)—technically a fruit, according to Doreen Fernandez's book "Fruits of the Philippines"—is considered the "high commodity champion" in Sorsogon and considered by the Department of Agriculture the "flagship commodity" in Bicol.

Records obtained from the Department of Agriculture showed that in 1987, *pili* production in Bicol was estimated at 4,585 tons or 78.5 percent of the national figure.

In 1992, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources reported that Bicol supplied 82 percent of the national production volume, most of which came from Sorsogon. This prompted the National Economic and Development Authority to declare Sorsogon the commodity champion for *pili*.

Since 1999, through the establishment of the Sorsogon Provincial Pili Industry Development Council under Executive Order No. 8 issued by Gov. Raul Lee, a *pili* dispersal program has been conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

In June alone, DA records showed that 1,324.14 hectares of land have been planted with 42,534.25 *pili* trees that produced 1,374.26 metric tons of fruits.

Although Sorsogon has slid to No. 2 (next to Albay) in terms of areas planted and production, officials are hopeful that the department's High Value Crop Program would improve production.

Market

There is an existing market for *pili* from Sorsogon, and even an Italian chocolate maker is interested in using pili nuts in its products, according to Guhit.

"The problem is that it doesn't have a contact who can supply in volumes or tons. It is asking if we can really sustain the supply. Government intervention must come in," she said.

But government officials should see the presentation and not just the abstract of her ideas for a better understanding, according to Guhit.

Pili is also considered a "majestic tree" because—from its roots, trunks, branches, leaves, saps and fruits—it has numerous industrial, commercial, environmental medicinal and nutritional uses.

A Sorsoganon should embody the good traits of the pili tree, according to Guhit.

"I would always believe in the saying that *'Bawat Sorsoganon paglaom'* (Every Sorsoganon is a hope). Meaning, you're a hope; in whatever way you can, whatever best you can contribute, go for it," Guhit said.

PARTICIPANTS wear accessories made of pili nut shells during the street parade held in celebration of the Pili Festival in Sorsogon City. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Guess who came to Boy Saycon's dinner?

From page A1

"You can say blood is always thicker than water, " Peping said, beaming. He denied he and Danding were ever estranged.

Not even when Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., husband of Peping's sister Corazon "Cory" Aquino, was jailed by Danding's good friend, Ferdinand Marcos. "*Maski na*," Peping insisted, unmindful of the fact that Cory was the central figure of the people power movement that ousted Marcos apparatus that included Danding.

Would you support Danding if he runs in May? Peping was asked. "Why not? But is he running?"

"We have that problem always, that he stands for something, and I stand for something but I don't think we ever reached that point when we didn't talk to each other," Peping said.

What would Cory say to this, Peping and Danding in a huddle, chuckling cousins plotting some naughty plots? "You have to ask her," Peping said, laughing.

Saycon said he was not at all surprised by the cordial relations between the Cojuangcos. "I had known even before I invited them to my birthday that there was no more animosity between them."

DANDING Cojuangco shakes hands with first cousin Peping Cojuangco upon arrival at Boy Saycon's party at Ayala Alabang Tuesday night.

BOY CABRIDO

Bad blood

Danding had a long history of bad blood with his first cousins Peping and Cory, who became the President in 1986.

It was said that Cory suspected the businessman of having a hand in the assassination of her husband in 1983.

The division could not have been made more obvious than during the 1992 presidential election. At that time, Danding ran for president but Cory campaigned for Fidel Ramos who subsequently won the race.

In 1998, Danding backed Joseph Estrada's presidential bid while his cousins supported former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

'Asked if he would run in next year's presidential election, Danding said he would announce his decision in September, according to Saycon.

Saycon said the response elicited laughs, with some guests joking that Danding was planning the announcement in time for Peping's birthday on Sept. 19.

Rumors that Danding would be attending the birthday party of Saycon had been hinted at as early as Tuesday afternoon. It was rumored that President Macapagal-Arroyo, or the First Gentleman, might drop by Saycon's residence.

In fact, Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza, chief of the 7th Infantry Division and former military aide of Ms Macapagal, was whispered about as Ms Macapagal's "advance party."

Being in the same room with Danding evoked extreme emotions and memories, if not sheer bewilderment.

"I can't believe he is here and all these (praises)?" former Ambassador Ching Escaler said, her eyes wide with amazement.

Surreal

"This is surreal. I can't believe this is happening," replied her seatmate Patricia Sison. Both had been active in the anti-dictatorship movement that sent the Marcoses, along with Danding, into exile. But then, that was in 1986, almost 20 years ago.

Guingona came early, but left at the stroke of 9. Legarda was also an early bird, and gracefully followed Guingona to the door.

Danding, in a shirt-jac with the San Miguel logo arrived at 9:20 p.m., shaking hands and beaming broadly. Ramon Ang, president of San Miguel was at hand. Legarda, who may have met Danding's vehicle en route to Saycon's house, had returned, enthusiastic as ever.

Danding was introduced around—to Ric Pascua of the First Holding's Group and his sons. But others in the living room carefully veered away. Sison and Escaler refused to budge from their seats. Linggoy Alcuaz also stayed glued to his chair.

Maria Montelibano, formerly the head of Mrs. Aquino's media bureau in Malacañang, disappeared among the guests at the patio. And Bayan's Teddy Casiño concentrated on his food. At the garden, Interior Undersecretary Wency Andanar busied himself with text messages and clowning with his son Regis. Andanar was once at the Philippine Coconut Authority, and certainly had a lot to say about the coconut levy.

The man who is called "Boss" by employees of the giant beverage and food conglomerate San Miguel, held court at Saycon's main dining room.

Team to beat

"This is the team to beat!" someone quipped after the Danding-Loren photo was taken. The senator just smiled.

The topic, of course, was Danding's rumored plans to contest the presidency, again, in May 2004. Pundits say he's been testing the waters, an observation that he confirmed with media that night.

But he was not with Saycon that night to talk politics. He said he was there to honor a friendship that dates back to the 1970s.

"I think friendship should be differentiated from politics. I can have a very good friend, but if I don't see him or her that he or she should be the leader of my country, then I certainly will not be for her or for him," Danding said.

It was not clear, however, if Danding was referring to his deceased friend, Marcos, or Ms Macapagal, with whom he had been meeting with secretly in the past few days.

In Balanga, Bataan, Danding said yesterday that he had been going around the country to find out his chances of winning the presidential race next year.

"I just want to make sure that I have a winning chance," he said at the inauguration of a center in Balanga on the birthday of Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman.

A source present at the affair said Danding admitted that "my rating is very low so I have a lot of catching up to do."

Danding was quoted as saying that "money is not everything" and that he had to contend with other popular presidential aspirants.

Among those who welcomed Danding were Zambales Gov. Vic Magsaysay and Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson. He was accompanied by Nationalist People's Coalition chair emeritus Ernesto Maceda, Lakas Rep. Jacinto Paras who led 50 members of the ruling party in endorsing Danding, and other officials. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

'The money is not mine. It belongs to coconut farmers'

By Fe Zamora
Inq7

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. on Tuesday lamented that he had been unjustly accused of using the controversial coconut levy funds to enrich himself.

He said that the funds were intact and belonged to the coconut farmers.

Cojuangco, chair and CEO of San Miguel Corp., said that the coconut industry had nothing to speak of until he came in with a plan that eventually brought money to the coconut farmers. He was apparently referring to the tax collected from coconut farmers between 1973 and 1982 through a presidential decree.

"When I joined the coconut industry, there was no plan, no money. When a plan was hatched, people started fighting over the money. Until now. If that is bad, then I am bad," he said.

"It's simple. The money is not mine. It belongs to coconut farmers. I have never claimed it," he said.

"My conscience is clear on the coconut levy," Cojuangco added. The cases have been going on for 16 years, he said. "And we haven't reached pretrial. Now, you be the judge."

"I have always thought that justice delayed is justice denied," said Cojuangco, one of richest men in the country, said.

He also complained about how companies associated with him "suffered" because of the association. He cited the recall of the nomination of former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda to the board of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

"You know, I don't own the company. I only own a certain percentage of the company and if the company is being pilloried because of me, I don't think it's fair for the other stockholders of the corporation," he said.

3 men behead . . .

From page A1

Report reaching the Negros Occidental Police Office pointed to robbery as the motive in the killing because the couple had just sold their carabao for P8,500 on Friday.

The couple failed to deposit their money in the bank and hid it under a container of "*palay* (unmilled rice)."

It was not stated in the police report whether the money was missing.

Police arrested the suspects after witnesses identified them as the ones who came out of the victims' house on the night they were killed.

When interrogated, Tanguar and Hibolan reportedly pointed to Cabug-os as the one who confirmed their suspicion that the couple were "*aswang*."

But Susan Ngitngit vehemently denied her parents were *aswang*. "It is not true that my parents are *aswang*," she said over ABS-CBN.

In an interview over dyEZ Aksyon Radio on Tuesday, Tanguar maintained that he and the two other suspects did the "right thing."

He said he had long been after Isabelita whom he believed to be an *aswang*, who caused the death of his child last year.

Hibolan, an uncle of Tanguar's wife, reportedly agreed to the plan to kill the couple after Cabug-os confirmed their suspicion that the Casupongs were *aswang*.

Movie

Hibolan recounted that Cabug-os had told them the couple were going to town to watch a movie on Saturday night. So they planned to kill the couple that night. Cabug-os told the two that he would keep his wife from returning home with his in-laws.

Tanguar said he and the two others went inside the couple's house and waited for them to come home.

When they did, Tanguar said he immediately grabbed Isabelita who had just sat down and cutoff her head with one clean sweep of a scythe.

Tanguar said he saw the body stand before it fell down again. He then sprinkled ashes on the stump of the head to prevent it from reconnecting with the body, the suspect said.

Hibolan grabbed Generoso who struggled vehemently. He said he was able to hack Generoso all over his body before he managed to cut the victim's neck. But Generoso's head was not fully severed from the body.

Tanguar and Hibolan said they wanted to bring the heads to the nearby river and bury them to ensure they would not return to their bodies.

But, they said, they were prevented from doing so when Cabug-os returned and told them that his wife was on her way home.

Tanguar and Hibolan said they believed they did the right thing because they were able to save the lives of others.

This was the reason, they said, that they did not attempt to flee when the police fetched them from their homes in Barangay Bulata.

Tanguar said he extracted oil from Isabelita's body after killing her. *Aswang* are believed to have oil, which they use for their evil deeds.

But according to the neighbors, the oil found from Isabelita was a liniment for her aches and pains.

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GMA now thinking of running–Alvarez

From page A1

According to a Palace official who asked not to be named, Arroyo had also been conferring with local leaders during provincial sorties.

"He's not asking if she should change her mind. He's asking them when would be the best time to make the announcement," the official said.

'Nothing wrong'

Even Ms Macapagal's own political liaison, Jose Ma. Rufino, is convinced of the possibility of her candidacy.

In an interview over the state-run dzRB, Rufino said the majority of political leaders in the country were in favor of the President running next year.

"*Wala naman daw masama magbago ng pag-iisip* (They say there's nothing wrong in her changing her mind)," he said.

Asked to comment on criticism from Sen. Serge Osmeña that this would mean the President had no word of honor, Rufino said: "Everybody has his own opinion, but you know, in politics anything is possible. So I won't be surprised [if she runs]; I will be glad."

Rufino said things had changed since Dec. 30 when Ms Macapagal made her announcement. "The situation now is different," he said. "Our people are really hoping for continuity [of her presidency]."

He also said that the President's popularity had improved and that she was in fighting form ("*Sumisipa pa*").

Rufino cited the "strides" in Ms Macapagal's governance, including her recent extended stay in Mindanao, and said it was a big deal for the people to see and mingle with her instead of her staying in Malacañang. *(See box on this page.)*

"That is very important, that is why there are now so many groups like the Run-Gloria-Run or the GMA 2004. Those are [made up of] ordinary people, not politicians," he said.

Settling the issue

Rufino said members of Lakas were also "agitating" Ms Macapagal to run.

"So far, the President has said she is not running, but some of them can sense that maybe all she needs is a little push," he said.

Both Rufino and Alvarez said Lakas members were worried about the party's unity and its chances in 2004 because the President had left things hanging.

"She will have to clarify and make matters clear," Rufino said in a separate interview with the INQUIRER. "Although she has said she's not running, and I have no reason to doubt her, others are wondering. So to put an end to the speculations, she should settle the issue once and for all."

Rufino said the President would likely do that when she attends the executive committee meeting of Lakas that she and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., party co-chairs, had called.

Alvarez raised the concern among party leaders regarding the delay in Lakas preparations for 2004 because of the question on the President's ultimate decision.

"There is a deep-seated concern in the party leadership on the possibility that members are already being won over by other parties because of a vacuum in leadership," he said.

This is why, he said, the 120 or so members of the Lakas national directorate unanimously passed a resolution during its June 2 meeting that in effect asked the President to make up her mind "not later than August." He said this was because political conventions could be held starting Nov. 14.

Alvarez said Resolution No. 3 was approved by ranking party leaders, including Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., De Venecia, and other regional and national elected officials.

Braganza's calendar

The resolution authorizes the Lakas national executive committee to "undertake the screening and selection of the official candidates for president and vice president for the 2004 elections provided that such candidates ... shall be submitted for the approval of the national assembly."

Ignacio Bunye, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, is no longer answering "political questions."

"All political questions will be addressed to Secretary [Hernani] Braganza," Bunye said yesterday, a day after it was reported that former President Fidel Ramos had asked the President to make up her mind.

Ramos had also said that the party would come out with its nominees for president and vice president by July 21.

Braganza, Ms Macapagal's adviser on political affairs, issued a statement saying that the national executive committee of Lakas had drawn up an "indicative calendar that will guide its selection process and other political activities in preparation for the 2004 elections."

But he said this "calendar" was "not carved in stone" and was "dynamic and subject to political realities in the field."

Rep. Gerry Espina of the Nationalist People's Coalition said the President should announce this early the administration coalition's standard-bearer for 2004 in order to keep the coalition intact.

Espina, a member of the NPC central committee supporting the candidacy of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, said he agreed with Ramos' observation that the longer the uncertainty over the coalition candidate, the greater would be the chances of the coalition being divided.

"The key here, of course, is the President's final decision as to whether she will keep her earlier announcement of not seeking the presidency in 2004," he said.

He also said the earlier Ms Macapagal made that decision, the easier it would be for other members of the coalition to stay.

Espina said that the last time he spoke with the President, which was a few days ago, she did not want to talk about the 2004 election.

"But the surge of [her] popularity rating ... may change her mind, more so if more multisectoral groups continue to petition her to seek election in 2004," he said.

Wise move

Espina said Cojuangco's decision to go on a nationwide consultation was a wise move.

He said this would give Cojuangco the real pulse of the people before deciding to seek the presidency or not.

"What is ideal for 2004 is that the presidential elections be contested by only two groupings or coalitions, in order to prevent a president elected only by a plurality vote, as has happened in two previous presidential elections," Espina said. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

GMA to embark on 9-day caravan

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

BEFORE making her most important speech to the nation at the joint opening of Congress on July 28, President Macapagal-Arroyo will go on a 9-day caravan to the Visayas and Southern Luzon.

The "GMA Kalahi Caravan—Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan, Ahon Bayan" will take the President on a whirlwind tour of Panay Island and the three Samar provinces on July 15-18 and the Southern Luzon provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Quezon, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay and Masbate on July 21-24.

The President spent a whole week last month in Mindanao, the part of the country where, as shown by a recent survey, her popularity rating was lowest.

On July 28, she will deliver her State of the Nation Address at the joint opening of Congress.

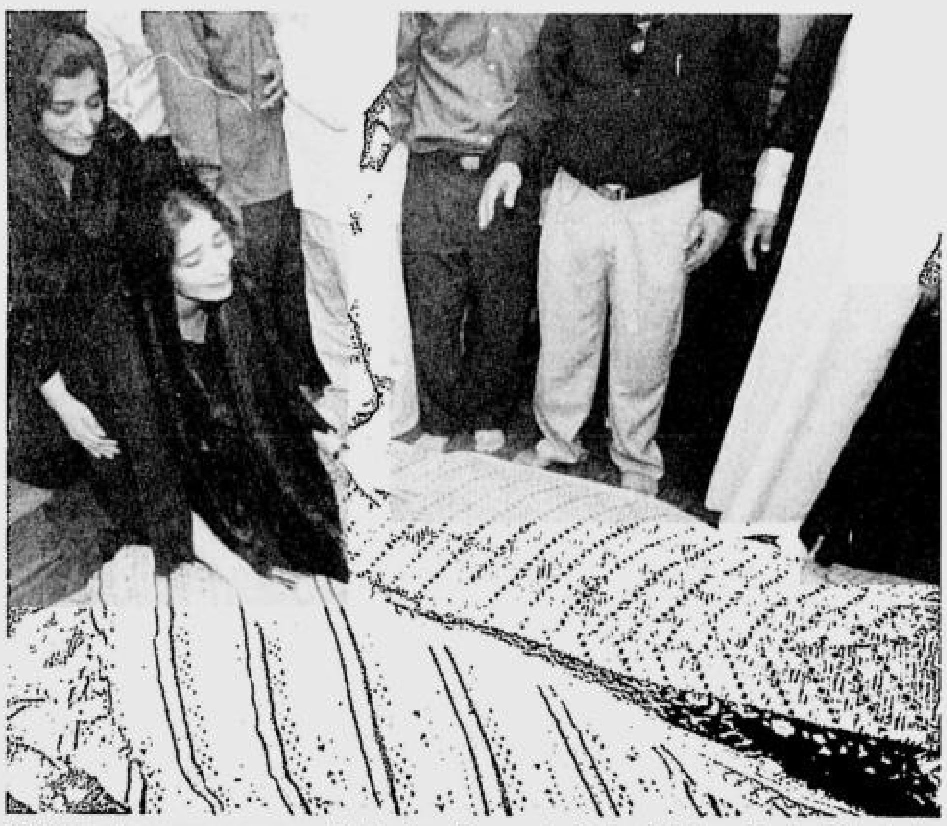
The Sona is traditionally the major policy speech in which the President recites her accomplishments and outlines her programs for the rest of the year.

Because of speculation that Ms Macapagal has changed her mind about not seeking election in 2004, her Sona is being keenly awaited by administration and opposition leaders.

There are expectations that she will make an announcement about her political plans during the Sona, if not a week earlier.

Cabinet and Palace officials have been working on the draft of the Sona, which officials said would have the theme "Strong leadership, a foundation for a strong republic."

According to a Malacañang official, it will be the President's last Sona "for this term."



TWO Iranian women cry over the bodies of separated twins Laleh and Ladan Bijani who died during surgery in Singapore on Tuesday. REUTERS

LADAN and Laleh speak to the media in a press conference held on June 11, 2003. REUTERS

World mourns death of twins Ladan and Laleh

From page A1

In their homeland, Iranians cried out in shock or wept as state television announced the deaths of the twins who were determined to see each other face-to-face, rather than in a mirror.

In Singapore, dozens of Iranian expatriates fought back tears as they read from the Koran and prepared the bodies of the twin sisters on Wednesday for the long journey home.

Local volunteers, including nurses and paramedics, carried the bodies of Laleh and Ladan in separate coffins draped in black cloth to a Muslim school in Singapore where they were washed according to Islamic tradition.

A bouquet of white and yellow carnations was placed near the school entrance. Ladan and Laleh are the names of delicate flowers in the Farsi language.

The twins' bodies are expected to be flown to Tehran early Thursday on a commercial flight.

High risks

The twins understood the operation's high risks but pressed for surgery anyway. It was the first attempt to separate a pair of adult twins born joined at the head. Previous operations have only been on infants, whose brains can recover more easily.

The surgeons who operated on the Bijani twins repeatedly encountered surprises that preoperative tests couldn't detect. The skulls were harder to cut than expected, the twins' distinct brains had fused and their blood pressures were unstable.

It was the unpredictable changes in how their blood flowed as well as the surgeons' inability to cope with those changes that killed the sisters, Goh said.

Over three days, the team of 28 doctors and about 100 medical assistants worked in the tight space surrounding the twins, who were braced in a sitting position.

Surrounded by a dozen nurses and technicians, surgeons stood Tuesday on either side of the sisters, cradling their heads to support them as the final cut was made.

The blood started flowing uncontrollably the instant the surgeon cut through the point where the bottom of the brain touched the bone.

The twins were delicately placed on their sides on opposing operating tables as surgeons administered blood transfusions and battled to stabilize them.

Dilemma

Rerouting a finger-thick vein shared by both women's brains was considered the biggest obstacle in the surgery. German doctors told the twins in 1996 that the vein made surgery too dangerous.

As the difficulties mounted, the Singapore surgeons faced the dilemma of leaving the twins joined and hoping they would recover—or pressing ahead, "which we knew would be very, very risky," said Dr. Loo Choon Yong, chair of Raffles Hospital where the surgery was performed.

The team consulted with friends of the twins who had come from Iran and stayed at the hospital.

"The team wanted to know once again, 'What are the wishes of Ladan and Laleh?' " Loo said. "We were told that Ladan and Laleh's wishes were to be separated under all circumstances."

The surgeons devised new ways to tackle the vein problem, and kept going.

The Bijanis came to Singapore last November, their last stop in their lifelong quest to be separated. Ladan, the more talkative of the two, studied law and wanted to become a lawyer. Laleh, also a law school graduate, hoped to become a journalist.

They were born into a poor family of 11 children in Firouzabad in southern Iran, and raised by doctors in Tehran, under the spotlight of the Iranian media.

Ambassadors of peace

They first found hope in Iran and then Germany that they could one day lead separate lives, but only ended up heartbroken. Their hopes were rekindled after they heard Goh had successfully separated a pair of 18-month-old Nepalese twins in 2001. The Bijanis announced last month they would go ahead with the surgery.

"Laleh and Ladan were not only two patients, they were ambassadors of peace, ambassadors of friendship," Ambassodor Moadob said at a news conference shortly after their deaths were announced.

From Sierra Leone to Sri Lanka, people on Wednesday called into radio stations, posted Internet messages and left flowers to show how the twins' story had touched their lives.

The Bijani twins, who have been embraced as national treasures, reminded the world of their country's positive side, Iranians in Singapore said Wednesday.

"We were hoping that this story would go on for longer but now it has ended so it will move back to the politics and the propaganda (of the West) again," Iranian businessman Siamha Anzouchian said at a prayer service for the twins.

Washington has accused Iran of trying to build an atomic bomb and supporting terrorism—allegations Tehran denies. US President George W. Bush demanded last month that Iran abandon any nuclear weapons ambitions or face consequences.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami offered on Monday to have his government pay the US$300,000 cost of the twins' operation, calling the sisters his "patient daughters."

"Their deaths were mourned by the whole world and across different faiths. That is the message of Islam, the true message of Islam," Ameer Jumabhoy, one of the mourners in Singapore, said. *Reports by AP and AFP*

Debate rages . . .

From page A1

have been.

"The implication was that the twins would get into trouble sooner or later if nothing was done," said Dr. Loo Choon Yong, chair of the 2-year-old Raffles Hospital where the surgery was performed.

Several bioethicists said they thought the operation was ethically justified, since the doctors believed they had a reasonable chance of success and the women understood the hazards.

"The patients are the ultimate rulers, and they must decide whether to have a procedure when all the risks are laid out," said Dr. C. Rollins Hanlon, a former president of the American College of Surgeons.

Critical

But other medical experts were critical, concerned about the haste and motives behind the surgery.

"There are troubling aspects about this case," Dr. Ian Kerridge, associate professor in bioethics at Sydney University's Center for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine, told Reuters.

"One of them was the statement by one of the surgeons that they found it was more difficult than they had expected. To me that sets off a little bit of an alarm bell."

Kerridge suggested doctors could have let the girls wait for a year, talk to people who have not had the surgery or to people who felt it was wrong.

Australian medical ethicist Nic Tonti-Filippini said consent of the patients was not enough reason to go ahead with surgery.

"The profession actually has to be satisfied that it's a safe enough procedure," he told Reuters.

Goh said at a news conference that the presence of international medical experts at the operation indicated they had made the right decision.

"I think that for those of us who were here over these last three days, for those of us who flew in from all over the world . . . the time and commitment is a convincing indication of their belief that the decision is correct," he said at a news conference.

Carson, who flew in from Baltimore, said the operation was worth it "even recognizing that the odds were not good. I think it was a worthy humanitarian effort."

But a neurosurgeon in Germany, who declined to separate the twins when they were 14, said Tuesday that he was stunned the operation had even been attempted.

Editorial

Madjid Samii, president of the International Neuroscience Institute in Hanover, said he had reluctantly turned down the twins' request after a month of examinations in 1988 showed the shared vein, which drained blood from their brains to their hearts, meant their chances of survival were almost nil.

Ladan and Laleh Bijani had made it clear they were willing to risk death for a chance to pursue their dream of leading separate lives.

"They gambled and have lost," was the verdict of Singapore's Straits Times, which nevertheless described the operation as "history in the making."

In its editorial, the Straits Times saw a silver lining in the cloud of tragedy.

"It is not the done thing to talk about boosterism when patients have died. But wrung of its emotion in what was literally a clinical job, Singapore will gain in international renown for its medical advances when the verdicts of professional peers are in," the newspaper said.

Iranians in the city state were in a somber mood as they gathered to hold prayers for the two women.

"I think the doctors have an obligation to fulfill the wishes of their patients," said Ali Homayouni, 25, an Iranian law student who had visited the twins in the hospital.

"It was their duty to make sure they do the best job they could given the circumstances," he said.

"It is the destiny of the twins," added Javad Najafi, 39, an Iranian living in Singapore.

Anger at deaths

But the man who adopted the twin sisters and brought them up spoke only of his deep sadness, bitterness and anger at their deaths. "We shared a house for 27 years and I feel a great emptiness," Alireza Safaian told Reuters at his home in southwestern Tehran.

A doctor himself, Safaian wept as he spoke of distress at the decision of his daughters and the Singapore doctors to go ahead with the risky operation.

"When they took them to Singapore, I knew they would bring back their bodies. They took them there and killed them," said Safain whose last contact with the twins was 18 months ago.

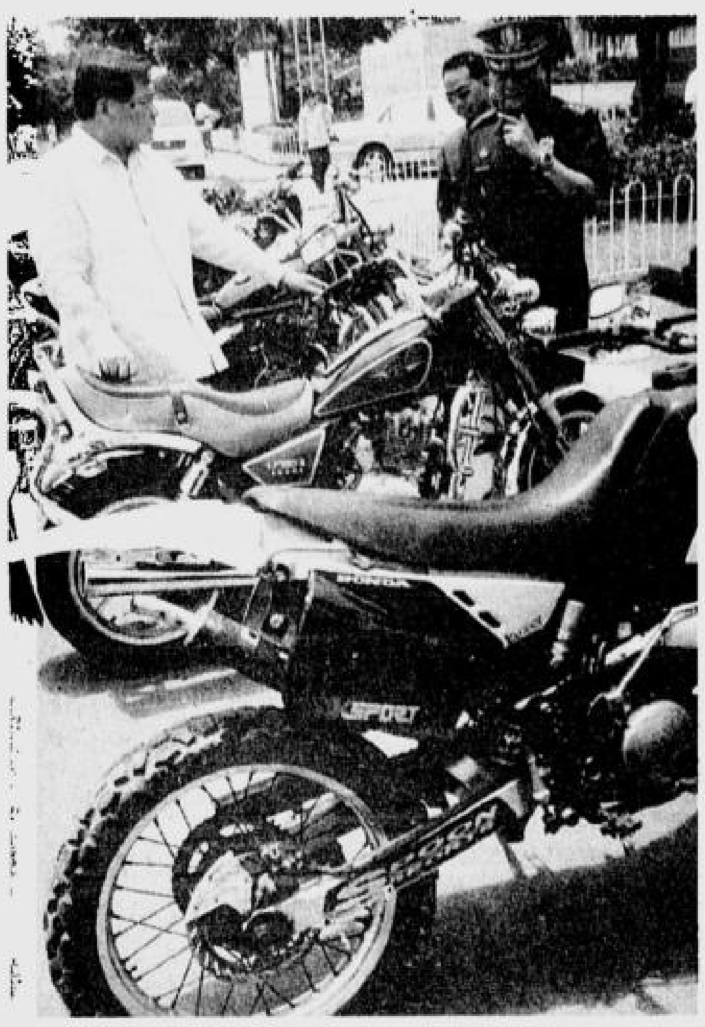
"Me and my brother, who is a doctor in Germany, we told everyone that this separation surgery was impossible. Nobody would listen to us."

Safaian's son Ramin, adoptive brother of the twins, said his sisters had been ill advised: "It was their own decision to go there. But they were not doctors or experts to understand. They just wanted to be normal people."

Safaian said his wife needed medication to calm her down when she was told that Ladan and Laleh had died.

Playing videos of the twins as young girls, with one riding a bicycle and one running alongside, Safaian said: "When I adopted them, nobody wanted them, not even their real parents.

"I adopted them while they were not in good health and they were so skinny and weak. I am missing them so much. I wish they were here, even with the situation they had." *Reports by AP and Reuters*



IMPOUNDED VEHICLES
Local Government Secretary Joey Lina and Gen. Reynaldo Velasco of the National Capital Region's Police Office inspect motorcycles impounded at the NCRPO's compound at Camp Ricardo Papa in Bicutan due to dubious ownership and registration papers. The impounding resulted from the intensified campaign against car theft. ERIK ARAZAS

No nameplate, no ticket

Motorists told to call MMDA hotline for violators

By Leila Salaverria

THE NAMEPLATE is now the virtual ticket of a Metro Manila Development Authority traffic enforcer for him to issue a ticket.

"If an enforcer is not wearing his nameplate, he should not apprehend motorists," declared MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

Fernando stressed that the traffic enforcer "should always be in uniform and sport his nameplate."

The MMDA chair then advised motorists to insist on seeing the nameplate of any enforcer seeking to cite them for a traffic violation.

Fernando added that should an enforcer with no nameplate try to issue a ticket to or extort money, the driver should call the MMDA hotline 02-136.

He explained that enforcers who try to hide their identity could be up to no good.

If a motorist knows the enforcer's identity, it would be easy for him to report the enforcer should he do anything irregular.

Driving home his point, the MMDA chair ordered the removal of the flaps on the front pockets of the enforcers' shirts after it was pointed out to him that some MMDA men raise the flaps to hide their nameplates.

He added that if the traffic enforcer is wearing a jacket, he should remove or open it so that his name could be seen.

Fernando said these measures, along with the no-contact apprehension policy, were part of the agency's move to minimize incidents of mulcting.

Even the ticket redemption centers have not been spared.

Several months ago, the MMDA replaced the personnel at the centers to uproot "syndicates" that have reportedly entrenched themselves there.

"Fixers" at the centers have also been banned because these are indications that the centers are either inefficient or plagued with anomalies, according to Fernando.

Syndicate on rented cars busted

By Margaux Ortiz

THE WESTERN Police District yesterday busted a car theft syndicate which victimizes rent-a-car companies with the arrest of six suspects.

First to be arrested were Jerico Bonus, 23, of 58 Kitanlad St., Banaue, Quezon City; Michael Yutingco, 23; and sister Ingrid, 25, both of 1107 Tower A. Valencia Hills, N. Domingo, Quezon City.

In a follow up operation, WPD operatives collared alleged accomplices Jerry Legaspi, 27, of 30-B Pasco St., Cainta, Rizal; Darwin Singson, 25, of 76 18th Ave., Murphy, QC; and Jun de Casas, of P. Gil cor. San Marcelino, Manila.

WPD Anti-Carnapping Unit head Chief Insp. Benjamin Reyes said the operations stemmed from the complaint of Editha Qwider, owner of Hannan and Assad Rent-a-Car companies.

Reyes said Bonus and the Yutingcos drove off with a white Toyota Corolla Altis (XEX-781) which they had rented from Hannan Rent-a-Car on Monday.

They tried the same modus operandi on Assad Rent-a-Car but Qwider recognized their phone number on her phone's caller ID and she called the police.

The suspects were arrested in an entrapment operation at the corner of España and Maceda Streets in Sampaloc, Manila.

Meanwhile, National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director Reynaldo Velasco reminded motorists to always bring their car's official receipt and certificate of registration.

This is to avoid any inconvenience as the NCRPO sets up checkpoints in Metro Manila as part of its anti-carnapping campaign.

At the Northern Police District, operatives held 32 vehicles of various types that did not have license plates. These were stopped at checkpoints in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela. *With reports from Edson Tandoc Jr. and Tarra Quismundo*

Thank God it's just rumor

By Tarra Quismundo

NAKU NAKAKATAKOT NAMAAAN!

THE CALOOCAN High School is ablaze with a rumor that has been burning in the ears of its students and officials and of the community at large.

For the past two weeks, the story about a female student whose body was allegedly found stuffed inside a cabinet in one of the school buildings has been passed on from ear-to-ear and cellphone-to-cellphone.

"It's not true," said school administrator Dario Rebuelta.

He said the school had been receiving countless telephone calls from local officials, parents and reporters asking about the incident.

Rebuelta theorized that the rumor might have been concocted by outsiders who wish to disrupt the school's operations.

"It's possible that drug addicts who are kept from entering the school grounds began the rumor," Rebuelta said.

The story was first heard of Thursday night two weeks ago, when security officer Flor Tecson received a report from one of the students about a dead girl who was found on campus.

Tecson, who worked for the Caloocan Department of Public Order, Safety, and Traffic Management (DPSTM), said she went to the school, which was near her home, to tell the security guards about the report. The security guards then called the police for assistance.

PO3 James Dula of the Caloocan Police Sub-station 2 said the station's personnel led by their chief Supt. Eladio de Leon went to the school on the night the rumor broke out.

They checked all 144 rooms in the four school buildings on campus but found no body.

Following further calls from the public, Dula said De leon and his men returned to the Caloocan High School on Tuesday to verify the report and again found it untrue.

Despite the rumor, Rebuelta said the classes at the 62-year-old high school had not been disrupted and its operations remained normal.

"There has been no panic among our almost 11,000 students," Rebuelta said, adding that had such hysteria occurred there could have been a stampede.

In spite of the repeated search that dispelled the rumor and the assurances of school officials some students are not convinced.

"Some of us don't believe, but others do," a group of third year students said. They added, "When the rumors began spreading, we were a bit frightened."

They said they heard the story from their teachers who were themselves unsure of its veracity.

Rebuelta said the administration never told students about the rumor but admitted telling the faculty.

"We only told the teachers. The students and parents would have panicked if we told them," the school administrator said.

He added that the rumors might have also spread through texting among students.

The students said that since the rumors began, they had begun taking extra precautions when inside the campus.

"Our parents are concerned about our safety, especially when we go home at the end of the day," one of the students said.

Con men hit it big selling fake titles

By Volt Contreras

HOUSING officials yesterday warned the public about syndicates dealing in fake land titles, some of which are said to date back to the Spanish era and even to the brief British occupation of Manila in the 18th century.

In one scam, con artists offer lots for rent or for sale in Metro Manila and in Luzon, invoking a "royal decree issued by King George III of England in 1762," said Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Michael Defensor.

He said the perpetrators claim to be "heirs or descendants" of 18th century Filipinos who were given land grants by the British.

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) has dismissed the titles offered by the claimants as fakes.

In the 1970s and 1980s, for example, the LRA encountered two claimants who produced British-issued titles covering 450,000 hectares in Metro Manila, Quezon, Rizal and Bulacan.

Defensor pointed out that the British never put up a land administration office in Manila when they occupied it from 1762 to 64.

Free rehab for drug users

From page A18

Atienza, president of the Metro Manila Mayors' League, said this would be the mayors' share in the government's drive against drugs.

He said all a drug user has to do is to go to the city or municipal mayor, ask for a referral, and his rehabilitation at the Center for the Ultimate Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig would be paid for by the city or municipal government.

The rehabilitation center, which has the capacity to house 3,600 users, charges each user P70 a day. The center now has a population of about 2,000 users, with room for 1,600 more, according to Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga.

Atienza said the mayors also agreed to provide additional social workers, psychologists and nurses in the rehab center.

In Mandaluyong City, Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. wants the "old guards" assigned at the city jail replaced after random drug testing revealed that 10 percent of the inmates are using illegal drugs.

"Drugs have found their way into our jails," Abalos said. "This is very embarrasing."

The testing was conducted after an 11-year-old boy the other day was caught trying to smuggle in the jail some .30 grams of shabu.

The drug, which was taped on the side of a plastic bag holding a dinner pack, was intended for a "Joey Reyes."

Katipunan folk won't yield to Fernando plan

THE METRO Manila Development Authority would be courting contempt should it push through with the removal of trees on Katipunan Avenue.

This was according to Ester Perez de Tagle, founder of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution, who had asked a Quezon City court to stop the project.

She said the MMDA should not push through with the project while the case for the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction against the removal of the trees on Katipunan is pending.

De Tagle said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando had earlier vowed not to touch the trees while the hearing is ongoing.

She criticized Fernando for saying that the alternatives offered to solve the traffic problem on Katipunan would not be enough to shelve the tree-cutting plan on Katipunan.

"If we do not do this (the filing of the case), what is to stop him?" de Tagle told the INQUIRER. "Fernando has a dangerous mindset. He does not listen to anyone."

Leila B. Salaverria

Trader jailed for selling fake goods

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A MANILA court yesterday sentenced a businessman to five years in jail for manufacturing and selling fake goods.

Judge Antonio Eugenio of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 24 found Bonnie Sy guilty of unfair competition for making and selling fake Unilever personal care products.

Eugenio also ordered Sy to pay Unilever Philippines Inc. P1,706,260 in damages.

In his eight-page decision, the judge said Sy's distribution of fake hair care products bearing the Vaseline, Lux, Sunsilk and Creamsilk brands was not only limited to Manila but also extended to key cities in Mindanao.

He said the imposition of the maximum penalty was justified because of the sheer volume of counterfeit products involved and the systematic scheme by which Sy sold these products.

Eugenio also stressed that the counterfeit products posed a great risk to the health and safety of unsuspecting customers.

Sy was arrested on Aug. 3, 2001 in Manila for selling over P200,000 worth of fake goods.

Government taking over Diwalwal

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE NEW People's Army earns P3 billion a year from the operations of the gold mining industry on Mt. Diwalwal in Compostela Valley. This amount is in the form of a protection racket affecting miners and businesses in the area.

Of that amount, P1.5 billion comes from extortion activities during peak mining operations; P1.2 billion from its 10 percent monthly share in all economic activities in the area and P600 million from the Bangko Portal Cooperative, a miners' cooperative.

The government will soon deprive the NPA of the huge earnings.

* * *

My source in Malacañang said that President Macapagal-Arroyo has formed National Task Force Diwalwal primarily to assert the government's right over the natural resources in Mt. Diwalwal and neighboring places.

A big military and police force will be deployed in the area to go after the NPA guerrillas who hold sway in Compostela Valley.

The military-police force will try to cut off the NPA source of funds in Diwalwal; annihilate the NPA armed groups in the area; dismantle the politico-military structure of the Communist Party of the Philippines and NPA; go after smugglers of guns, explosives and chemicals in Diwalwal; and stop organized criminal syndicates in the area.

* * *

But NTF Diwalwal will not only drive the NPAs out of the big mining area, it will oversee mining operations there through the government's Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. (NRMDC).

Other agencies that will compose the task force are the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, National Economic and Development Authority, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

In short, the government will take full control of Diwalwal.

* * *

The military-police expeditionary force will surely meet stiff resistance from the NPAs. Expect clashes between government troops and the NPAs in Compostela Valley and neighboring provinces.

You don't expect the NPAs to give up the P3-billion largesse from Diwalwal easily. As always, in a war, civilians will suffer the most.

* * *

A "collateral damage" to be wrought by NTF Diwalwal is the cutting off of protection racket to top police regional officials.

Top regional police officials earn big money monthly from illegal miners and smugglers of guns and explosives. This is in exchange for the police leaving them alone.

In short, graft and corruption of police officials will be stopped.

* * *

I have received a copy of a letter purportedly written by a Grace M. Dulay to President Macapagal-Arroyo complaining that she was raped by a top police official of Police Regional Office 11 based in Davao City.

Dulay identified the police official as Senior Supt. Paterno Ordina. She said Ordina raped her twice while she was detained in Davao City.

Dulay is being held for alleged involvement in a kidnapping case.

* * *

Dulay said she brought her complaint before the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), but nothing has come out of it.

As usual, the CHR is a paper tiger. I should know because the complaints I have filed before the CHR against policemen who abused civilians remain unacted upon. I made the complaints as host of "Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo" public service program.

The CHR should be dismantled because it's a useless agency.

* * *

How ironic that most Bicol governors have expressed their support either for businessman Eduardo Cojuangco or President Macapagal-Arroyo and not former senator and education Secretary Raul Roco, their fellow Bicolano.

Why don't they support Roco?

Because, as one Bicolano politician told me, "Roco is only for Roco, he doesn't care for Bicol."

If Roco can't get support from his fellow Bicolanos, how can he expect support from people from other regions?

Inner Space Manila rites

THE INNER Space Manila celebrates its second year tomorrow with the theme "Soul in the City."

Former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani, author and leading light of the Moral Recovery Program, is among the luminaries expected to attend the day's festivities.

Inner Space Manila is on the third floor CDC Building, 1195 Maria Orosa St., Ermita, Manila.

The center offers city-weary souls refreshing programs on basic spiritual survival.

LATE SPORTS

Phone Pals level series

By June Navarro

JIMMY Alapag had his breakout game while Asi Taulava sustained Talk N Text's firepower down the stretch as the Phone Pals leveled the championship series with a 99-91 win over the Coca-Cola Tigers last night in the Samsung PBA All Filipino Cup Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Alapag pumped in 27 points and won his matchup against veteran playmaker Johnny Abarrientos, towing the Phone Pals to a second straight win for a 2-2 count that reduced the title fight to a best-of-three affair.

Taulava, who earlier captured the player of the conference award, showed why he deserved the accolade after scoring five of the Phone Pals' last seven points at the height of the Tigers' comeback bid.

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Free rehab for drug dependents

By Edson Tandoc Jr., Luige del Puerto and Tina Santos

DRUG dependents who are willing to break the habit may get a second lease in life.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday announced that the 17 mayors of Metro Manila would shoulder the cost of rehabilitating drug users in their respective areas.

FREE/ A17

MANILA Mayor Joselito Atienza visits with his constituents spending time at the Center for the Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents in Camp Ricardo Papa in Taguig to determine how to improve the rehabilitation process. ERIK ARAZAS

Stars in politics get judge's vote

By Margaux Ortiz

THANKS to a technicality, Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez and Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid can continue to shine on the silver screen and the boob tube.

A Manila court has junked the petition of a lawyers' group questioning why movie stars, who were elected as local chief executives, still appear in movies and television shows in violation of Section 90 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

The Social Justice Society (SJS), a small political party composed mostly of lawyers, said Santos, Marquez, Lapid and Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina allegedly have been violating the code, which prohibits elected officials from "practicing their profession or engaging in any occupation other than the exercise of their functions as local executives."

But Judge Cesar Solis of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 14 said the SJS has no *locus standi* to file the petition, not being a "person whose rights are affected" by the statute.

Locus standi literally means a place of standing. It refers to the right of a person to appear in court.

Solis said that only persons whose rights were affected by the statute, executive order or regulation, may institute a petition for declaratory relief.

He said that after painstaking perusal of the petition, the Court did not find even a single allegation that the petitioner's rights were affected by the Local Government Code.

SJS president Samson Alcantara yesterday said in a statement that the case was dismissed purely on technical grounds.

"The dismissal of the case is not on the merits, but merely on the ground that our political party has allegedly no legal interest to institute the action," Alcantara said.

He said a golden opportunity for the court to rule squarely on a question of national importance has been lost.

"SJS has always advocated judicial activism, but it is helpless to prevent judicial timidity," Alcantara said.

The SJS had argued that the appearance of politicians in movies and TV programs enhances their income, but reduces the time they should devote to their constituents.

QC doc just started firing, witnesses say

By Amy Remo

"WE WERE not even noisy in the first place."

The surviving victims and witnesses told police that Arthur Lopez, a former doctor, shot his three tenants shortly after he threatened them with a gun inside his apartment on Iriga Street, Barangay San Isidro Labrador, La Loma, Quezon City at around 9:30 p.m. Monday.

Lopez, 59, got upset and shot the victims because he thought they were noisy, said Charisma Ela, who was with the victims at the time.

"We apologized to (Lopez) even though we all knew we were not noisy at all," Ela said in Filipino. "We were just watching television and having a conversation."

The victims were identified as Carlo Magno Elamparo, 31, of Halcon Street, Quezon City, Oscar Vincent Cua, 21 and Jedan Mark Moraña, 23. Elamparo died instantly, according to his brother, Edgar.

Ela, who was with the victims and six other friends at the time, said that all of them were watching a basketball game in Lopez's living room when the suspect walked in and left.

Later, Lopez came back armed with a .45-caliber pistol, which he pointed at them, Ela said.

"I don't want any noise," Ela quoted Lopez as saying.

Ela added that Lopez had been drinking with two men since the morning.

"His mood was different that day," she said.

Elamparo, Cua and Jedan went out to talk to Lopez after he threatened them. A few minutes later, Ela and the other witnesses heard two gunshots.

Ela said Lopez and his wife, took the three victims to the Sta. Teresita Hospital, where Elamparo was pronounced dead.

But because the hospital lacked equipment, the families of the two surviving victims decided to transfer them—Cua to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz Manila and Jedan to the UST Hospital on España.

In an interview, Jedan said he and the other victims were standing about a meter away from the suspect when Lopez opened fire.

Jedan denied Lopez's claim that he was just defending himself.

"How could that happen when (Lopez) was the one who was armed? We know we didn't do anything wrong," said Jedan, who added that the suspect just started firing away.

Lopez was a former anesthesiologist, according to Ricardo Barican, a barangay kagawad who lives one house away from the suspect.

Barican said Lopez's medical license had been revoked back in the 1980s due to a mistake he committed during an operation in Cotabato.

Lopez, now detained at the Criminal Investigation Unit in Camp Karingal, Quezon City, has refused to give any statement.

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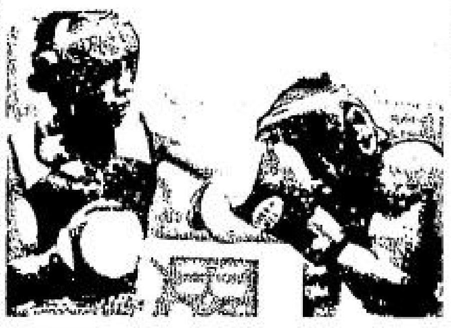

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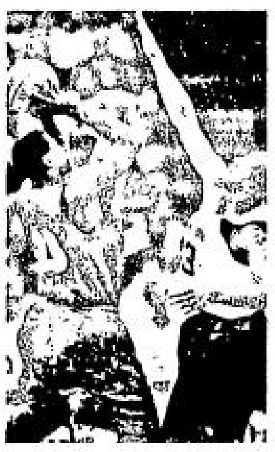

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WORLD POOL TOURNEY

Django: Time is ripe to win title

By Dennis U. Eroa

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante, who placed second but ranked first in gallantry to countless billiards fans in last year's World Pool Championship, vowed to end his search for the missing jewel in his rich collection of titles by winning this year's event in Cardiff, Wales.

"The time is ripe to win the Cardiff title. I am ready and confident that I can make it this time," Bustamante told the INQUIRER during the conclusion of the On Cue Ist RP-Europe nine-ball tournament last Sunday in Quezon City.

Bustamante left for Germany yesterday to visit his family, before proceeding to Cardiff today, two days before the start of the world's most prestigious billiards event.

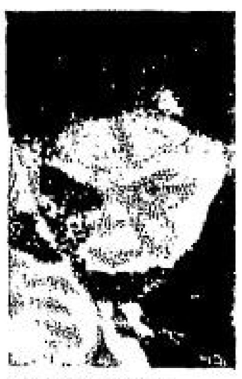
Last year, despite the death of his eight-month-old daughter Mariel due to a viral infection in Manila, Bustamante fought American Earl Strickland of the US on even terms before losing, 17-15, in the finals.

He was hailed as "true" champion by Filipino billiards enthusiasts upon his return. The pride of Tarlac dedicated his second place finish to the memory of his daughter then and said it will not be different this year.

"I still want to win the title for my daughter. I'm very thankful to my fellow Filipinos, Mr. Putch Puyat and my family, who stood by my side when I was in grief. If ever I win the title, they, too will be part of it," said Bustamante.

Known for his powerful breaks, Bustamante along with 1999 world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes banner a strong Philippine

DJANGO/ A20



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TOYOTA

Temecula warmup for Pinoy jungolfers

By Jong Arcano

AGOJO

MURRIETA, California—After immortalizing herself as the first player to score three consecutive victories here last year, Jayvie Agojo seeks to extend the streak when she leads the Philippine campaign in the Temecula International junior golf championships firing off Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) at the SCGA Members' Club here.

After completing a three-year domination of the girls 13-15 category, Agoyo will be competing in the 16-18 years this time carrying the hopes of a small RP contingent here to test their preparedness for next week's Callaway Junior World championships in nearby San Diego.

It will be no easy task for the ponytailed OB Montessori junior who will be ranged against taller and seasoned rivals from various states and other foreign countries. But she can count on her familiarity with the three courses used annually for the multi-division tourney.

Tonton Asistio is also out to clinch the victory he was denied by a Chinese last year.

Joining the hunt in the other divisions are Geleen Handog, Aran Olea, Mikee Camitoc, Jordan Mamaril, NN Sevilla and Jik Jik Abdon.

From the SCGA, the tourney moves to the Redhawk Golf Club in Temecula and then winds up at the Menifee Lakes Country Club in Menifee where the awarding ceremonies will also be held.

Gerry Handog, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, said he hopes the Temecula stint would get the players in the groove for the big mission next week in San Diego.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Farmers Charity Classic; 12 noon and 11 p.m.; Star Sports - Catch final two rounds of this tournament in Michigan.

LPGA Championship; 2 p.m.; ESPN - The best women's go all out for the final 18 holes of this major event.

BILLIARDS: Asian 9- Ball Tour; 8 a.m. (r); Star Sports - Relive the glory as Pinoy cue artists outclass their Asian counterparts in the semifinal round of the Manila Leg

Django . . .

From page A19

contingent in the tournament.

Also expected to compete are Antonio Lining, Warren Kiamco and some members of the national team who will compete in the Vietnam SEA Games this December. Reyes salvaged third spot after beating Kiamco in the semifinals of the recent RP-Europe tilt.

WORLD SLUGFEST

Payla gains q'finals

PAYLA (left) jolts Zov Gang during their 51-kg bout. REUTERS

BANGKOK—Flyweight Violito Payla again emerged as savior of the RP Revicon Boxing Team Tuesday night, beating his Chinese rival and barging into the quarterfinals of the World Amateur Boxing Championships at the Nimibutr Gymnasium here.

Payla, a 24-year-old from Cagayan de Oro, beat Zov Gang on points, 33-21, to set up a medal bout with defending champion Jerome Thomas of France on Thursday.

The victory of Payla compensated for the narrow loss absorbed by Arlan Lerio in the bantamweight division. The former Olympian yielded a 25-22 decision to Han Sung Moon of South Korea and joined teammates Joegen Ladon and Florencio Ferrer at the exits.

Earlier Monday night, Ladon absorbed a 27-18 decision from Frenchman Dangnoko Boubakar in the featherweight class while Ferrer was routed by Romanian Lon Dan, 26-8, in the welterweight division where he scored an impressive RSC-O win over his rival from Brunei in the second round in Sunday's openers.

With the unexpected early exit of Lerio, the fate of the Philippine contingent, sent here by Revicon with support from the Philippine Sports Commission, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Accel and Pacific Heights, now rests on the shoulders of Payla and light flyweight Harry Tañamor.

"It will be a very tough uphill climb for the two boys (Payla and Tañamor). But I am confident that the RP Revicon Team will not go home without a medal," Lopez vowed.

Armstrong Tour de France drive kicks into high gear

SAINT-DIZIER, France—Happy to play it cool while others sweated for wins in the early stages, Lance Armstrong's bid for a fifth consecutive Tour de France victory kicks into high gear in the team time trials Wednesday.

Although he managed to place only 69th in the third stage Tuesday, Armstrong's aim was to avoid crashing and conserve energy ahead of the time trial and backbreaking climbs up the Alps on Saturday.

Vying to tie Miguel Indurain as the only rider with five straight Tour titles, Armstrong will join his US Postal Service team in a joint effort against the clock—a 69-kilometer (42.8-mile) dash from Joinville back to Saint-Dizier.

The time trial offers Armstrong a chance to gain time ahead of the weekend's crucial mountain stages that begin with Saturday's alpine climb at Morzine-Avoriaz.

The time trial is not necessarily do-or-die for Armstrong, among the Tour's finest climbers.

Last year, US Postal was second to the Spanish ONCE team by 16 seconds. But Armstrong still won the Tour by a huge margin of seven minutes, 17 seconds—largely due to his phenomenal performances in the Alps and then the Pyrenees.

In Tuesday's third of 20 stages—which saw Rene Haselbacher of the Gerolsteiner crash near the finish—Armstrong finished one place behind teammate George Hincapie.

On Tuesday's flattish 167-kilometer (103-mile) route from Charleville-Mezieres to Saint-Dizier, Alessandro Petacchi won his second stage of the Tour. *AP*

PHOTOS show Gerolsteiner team rider Rene Haselbacher of Austria holding his cycling shorts up as he pedals to the finish line after taking a spill near the finish of the third stage. REUTERS

Pro-boxing tilt resumes

AN EXCITING flyweight matchup between a skilled, shifty boxer in Jimboy Rodriguez and a heavy-handed slugger in former Philippine flyweight champion Alfred Nagal will take center stage when the Philippine Pro-Boxing League (PPBL) resumes today.

The undefeated 20-year-old Rodriguez (7-0) is the pride of the Restituto Fernandez Boxing Stable. He faces the biggest test of his young career against the rugged southpaw Nagal, who hails from Malaybalay, Bukidnon, and reminds many of Rolando Navarette. Nagal has 13 victories, with seven coming via knockout.

Solar Sports will air the fight tonight (July 10) from 8-9 on IBC-13.

The PPBL is a joint project of I-Sports Action Television and Solar Sports. Nazario-Mondejar Promotions, the home stable of world champion Manny Pacquiao, has brought together the cream of the country's top 12 boxing stables for this event.

Badminton invt'l lures 11 squads

THE SPORTSHOUSE'S Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton Tournament kicks off Monday with 11 teams participating at the Yellow Feather Badminton Center in Libis, Quezon City.

Movie and television personalities are also vying in the tournament co-presented by Dunlop Slazenger Phils. Entered in the Corporate Cup are teams from the Asian Development Bank, Bingo Bonanza Corp., CB Richard Ellis, Crossover 105.1-Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Dive Shoppe, Nokia, Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Pioneer-DuPont Chemicals, Philippine National Bank and Procter and Gamble.

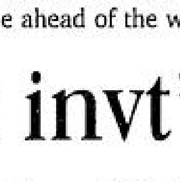
Co-organized by Team Powerplay headed by Olympian Amparo "Weena" Lim, the tournament also has Quantum Global, Robson-Sportscraft, Ultramax, Lino's Food and Entertainment and Ratsky's as major sponsors.

More than ₱5 million in raffle prizes—including a four-wheel, all-terrain motorbike, electric scooters and mountain bikes—have been prepared by Sportshouse, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, for the July 20 awards night at Ratsky's on Tomas Morato.

The tournament is also backed by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Petron Blaze, 105.1 FM Crossover, 92.3 FM Joey, Spurway Enterprises, Bingo Bonanza Corp., Longines, Gatorade, Rudy Project, SM Shoemart, PC Options, Urbanscape Day Spa, Carlton, Picture City, Kontrol, Large Formatix and Pixel-Pro.

Play to enjoy, not endure

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

GOLF is a game you don't win. It's a game you play.

That's not mine. It's someone else's.

If you can't believe that, you are not like me and the other 100 million or so duffers scattered around the globe.

You must be Tiger Woods. Annika Sorenstam. Or even Hilary Lunke, winner of the 58th US Women's Open.

Or you must be thinking like any one of them.

You are a pro, buddy.

Pros are supposed to be always thinking of winning, not enjoying.

Duffers like me prefer enjoying more than winning because to us, winning is merely secondary. Just to be outdoors instead of indoors (a.k.a. office) is victory already. To us duffers, the thought of winning is but a bonus. Who was it who said that "A bad day at the golf course is better than a good day at the office"?

More or less, that's our motto.

Not to the pros, though. Out there, they are driven, not dreamin'. Driven to wrestle the game to the ground, not dreamin' to simply make the cut. Only by battering the game can they score a victory. Dreamin' might drive them crazy at the end of the day.

But it doesn't mean duffers don't have the will to win, too. They do.

But when they win, either a simple golf game or a tournament —whether a tough one or not— the first one they beat is not the opposition but the game itself.

The second one a golfer beats is himself/herself but I'll deal with that later.

Unlike many other games when you literally face your opponents in a fierce combat, a mano a mano as in boxing or even basketball, you don't play defense at all in golf.

In golf, you can't block a shot by your opponent. In basketball, you get cheers for blocking a shot. In golf, you get penalized a minimum of two strokes for blocking a shot.

Yet, minus the blocking, no game is as tough as golf. You beat the opposition today, you are never too sure what's going to happen tomorrow. Golf is as fickle as the weather. It's as deadly as the black widow spider.

Unlike golf where every shot counts as one stroke, basketball has a three-pointer, a two-pointer, a three-point play. Even a four-point play on some occasions.

Golf has nothing but one. It's a game of one.

One tee shot.

One approach shot.

One pitch shot.

One bunker shot.

One putt.

All one.

Thus, a 300-yard tee shot is merely the equivalent of a putt from 3 inches. Distance matters not. Strokes matter.

Jenny Rosales finished 9 strokes behind Hilary Lunke with her rounds of 74-69-76-73=292 in the recent US Women's Open. Lunke had 71-69-68-75=283.

To Jenny, the finish still netted her a fat paycheck ($56,500), peso-wise, because of the dollar's huge exchange rate. Jenny's tie-for-13th windup was worth nearly 3 million pesos. Her total earnings this year has breached the P10-million mark ($278,330) after 14 events on the American Tour, putting her 21st overall in the money list.

Now compare that to Lunke's prize in winning the Open on Tuesday: $560,000. And that's just a single victory for the 24-year-old American, a mere qualifier who won her first major by sinking a 15-footer on the 18th and final hole to win the 18-hole playoff against Angela Stanford and Kelly Robbins. The birdie gave Lunke a 1-shot victory over Stanford, who matched par 71. Robbins shot 73.

Lunke beat the field but not after wrestling the game to the ground. To accomplish that, Lunke had to defeat her own self.

For while duffers play to enjoy, pros like Lunke play to endure.

Endure the mental torture of grappling with 14 clubs, vanquishing 18 completely different holes for 4 straight days and having to lean on just one person through four hours of agony each day: the caddy.

Many pros endure the pain of struggling through a winless season; many seek psychiatric help to keep their sanity.

Us duffers are different.

We enjoy the sun, even the pouring rain, regardless of triple bogeys or three-putt miscues that come our way during a round.

Many pros, if not all of them, cancel out the beauty of a bright, sunshiny day, their focus mainly fixed on that constant one in their brains: victory. They miss the beauty of the blue sky, the symphony of the rustle of leaves, the glimmer of the early morning dews on the blades of grass. They busy themselves with nothing but the thought of victory.

Us duffers, many of us anyway, pause more to smell the flowers than seriously study our lines of putt, wonder more at the magnificence of a blood-red lotus sprouting out from the pond than at a huge drive of 220 yards (most duffers usually are already excited over a 190-yard tee shot), listen more intently at the chirping of the birds than at our heartbeat when stroking a putt from 3 feet (the most criminal distance in golf).

Like the elections where one vote is as precious as gold, one shot is one shot in golf. It can alter everything.

Not always to us duffers, though.

The shot matters not much. It's the people you are with. And the air that you breathe, the sight of trees swaying in the wind and sashaying leaves and flowers, the breeze that kisses your cheeks. Gently.

I remember our blind brethren each time I play the game.

***

FASTBREAK. My family and I condole with my podner Recah Trinidad, whose Los Angeles-based eldest sister, Fely, passed away recently. Also to Joel Paredes and New Zealand-based Vina Paredes-Japa, who lost their mother after a lingering illness.

Letran, SSC down foes

GAMES FRIDAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—UPHR vs SBC (jrs)
2 p.m.—UPHR vs SBC (srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs MIT (srs)
6 p.m.—PCU vs MIT (jrs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BOYET Bautista split his free throws in the final 10 seconds and Frederic Reyes pulled off a defensive gem at the buzzer as Letran edged College of St. Benilde, 77-75, yesterday and inched its way back among the leaders in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

With the Knights slowed down by foul trouble and injuries, and clinging dangerously to a one-point 76-75 lead, Bautista was fouled by Unik Reyes as he tried to follow up his own miss.

The Letran guard, who was battling leg cramps, made only his second free throw, giving the Blazers one last crack at reversing the outcome.

But Rodriguez swatted away the desperation attempt by Reyes to secure the second win in three games for the Knights who tied for the lead with idle Mapua, Jose Rizal and Perpetual Help.

It was the third straight loss for the Blazers, the 2001 champions.

Cris Baluyot hit a three-pointer, while Michael Gonzales made two free throws in the final minute of the extra period as San Sebastian College nipped Philippine Christian University, 75-72, in the second seniors game.

Baluyot's trey and Gonzales' charities enabled the Stags to break free from the tight race and eventually snare their second win in three games while inflicting the Dolphins' second loss against one victory.

Scores:

LETRAN 77—Enrile 15, Aldave 14, Pinera 13, Rodriguez 12, Fedelicio 10, Santos 6, Aban 4, Bautista 2, Ebahay 1, Balneg 0, Reyes 0.

ST. BENILDE 75—Capati 22, Magpayo 13, Abad 10, Sanidad 8, Orbeta 7, Reyes 6, Mendoza 3, Paguio 2, Good 2, Robles 2.

Quarters: 28-17, 40-40, 65-60, 77-75.

SSC 75—Baluyot 25, Najorda 14, Aguilar 10, Gonzales 8, Moore 7, Vicente 5, Reveche 3, Rebuya 2, Estole 1, Maniclang 0, Uy 0, Santos 0, Legarde 0, Alcaraz 0.

PCU 72—Sona 13, Garrido 12, Retaga 11, Roque 10, Salangsang 6, Belga 6, Guiyab 6, Cecilia 2, Acraman 2, Castro 2, Senining 2.

Quarters: 11-14, 28-32, 44-51, 62-62, 75-72.

Payton to Lakers

EL SEGUNDO, California—Shaq, Kobe, The Glove and The Mailman on the Lakers.

Start engraving the NBA championship trophy?

The Lakers' superstar count may double for next season: With Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant already in the house, they're set to sign Gary Payton, nicknamed "The Glove." Karl Malone, "The Mailman," may not be far behind.

While O'Neal and Bryant already have three championship rings, that's a bauble that's missing from the otherwise sparkling careers of Payton and Malone. Payton turns 35 later this month, and Malone 40.

"It is the Lakers' intention to enter into a contract with Gary Payton once the moratorium period ends," team general manager Mitch Kupchak said Tuesday in a statement.

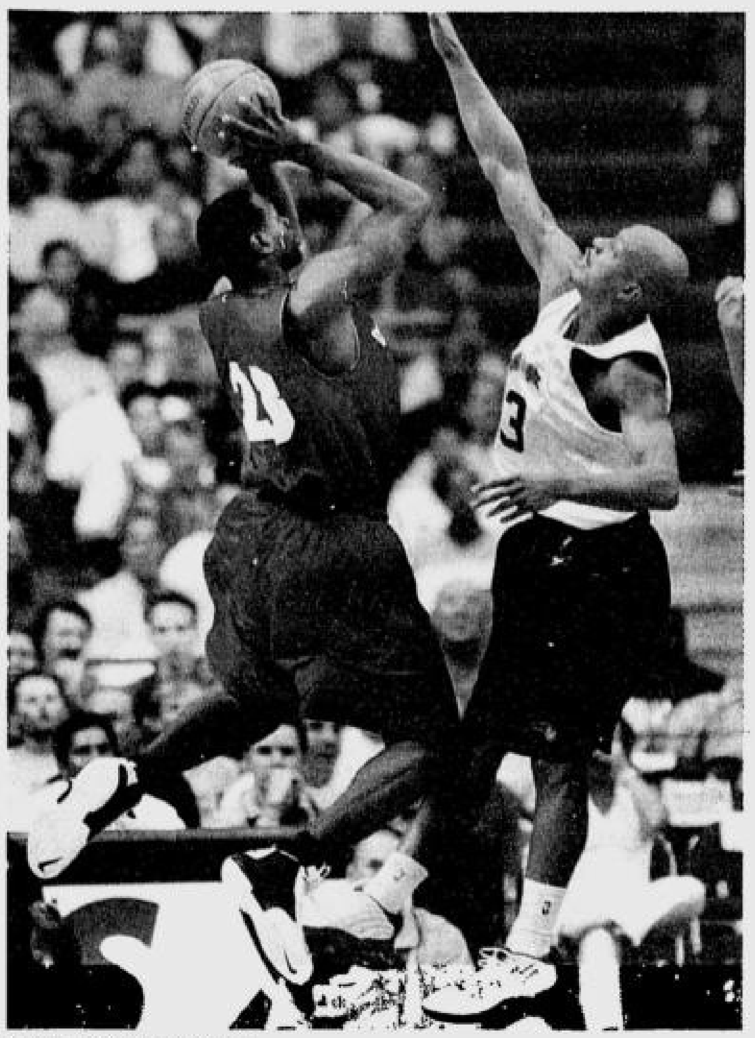
Payton and other free agents are not allowed to sign contracts until July 16.

With nine-time All-Star Payton coming on board, the Lakers would be favored next season to win their fourth NBA title in five years. If two-time MVP Malone also decides to sign, Los Angeles obviously would be even more imposing.

Payton, a free-agent guard, severed ties with his former team, the Milwaukee Bucks, on Monday.

Meanwhile, the sexual assault allegations against Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant were made by a 19-year-old Colorado woman.

Eagle County Sheriff Joe Hoy confirmed the woman's age Tuesday and said she has left on vacation with her family. *AP*



LEBRON'S DEBUT

Cleveland Cavaliers' Lebron James (left) goes high to score over Orlando Magic's Keith Bogans during James' professional debut in the six-team Pepsi Pro Summer League in Orlando, Florida, Monday. James had 14 points, seven rebounds and six assists as the Cavaliers beat the Magic 107-80. Playing 23 minutes in a 40-minute game, James was 5 for 11—despite missing three 3-point tries—from the field REUTERS

SPORTSWATCH

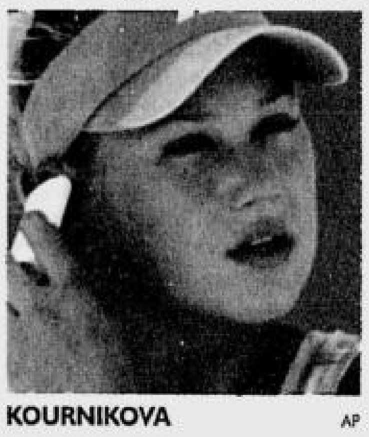
Paragua prevails, climbs to 6th place

FILIPINO GM candidate Mark Paragua downed French Fide Master Asher Clicenstein Tuesday night and climbed to a share of sixth place after four rounds of the Championnat de Paris 2003 Open chess meet in Paris, France. Paragua, 19, was beaten by French IM Arnaud Payen in the third round of the 69-man, 9-round Swiss System event. Paragua opted for the Nimzo Indian Defense and lost by time forfeit after 39 moves Monday night. With 3 points, Paragua found himself in the company of 4th seed GM Alberto David of Luxemborg, FM Lagrave Maxime-Vachier, IM Amir Bagheri, IM Afek Yochanan, IM Arnaud Payen, IM Todor Todorov, FM Thal Abergel, FM Sebastien Cossin, Jonathan Dourerassou and IM Philippe Brochet. ***Roy Luarca with a report from NM Marlon Bernardino***

'Cherry bomb' hurts young baseball fan

OAKLAND, California—An 8-year-old boy watching the Oakland Athletics' game against Tampa Bay on Tuesday suffered burns on one of his legs when another fan tossed an explosive device from the upper deck of the Coliseum. The boy was taken to a local hospital for treatment. No further information was immediately available. "That was a shame," Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella said. A suspect was in police custody after the incident in the bottom of the third inning, the Athletics said. The device, commonly known as a cherry bomb, made a loud boom as it fell from the third deck to the first tier of bleachers in left field. Players turned to look, causing a short delay. Tampa Bay won, 9-3. *AP*

Back injury sidelines Kournikova



KOURNIKOVA AP

TORONTO—Anna Kournikova withdrew Tuesday from the AT&T Cup tennis tournament in August due to a back injury. Kournikova has been sidelined since May with the injury. Even without Kournikova, the field remains star-studded with 19 of the world's top-20 ranked players entered. The top four players in the world headline the tournament which begins Aug. 9 at the National Tennis Center. Wimbledon champion Serena Williams heads the field, along with older sister, Venus, No. 4 in the rankings. *AP*

More than 50 fights slated in PCC derby

PASAY City Cockpit will stage a big 4-cock derby on Friday with more than 50 fights lined up. Sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Complexor, the derby starts at 7 p.m. A cash prize of P300,000 is at stake in this event being hosted by the Noli and Albert Group. Entry fee is P10,000. Submission of weights is from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow. Meanwhile, the "PCC Anniversary 5-Cock Derby" slated July 15, 17 and 19 will start at 2 p.m. Pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano expect about 200 entries. At stake is at least P1 million while entry fee is P15,000. For reservation of cockhouses, contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Roligon 4-Cock meet stakes P.5M

A GUARANTEED prize of P500,000 will be at stake in the "Laban O Lugon 4-Cock Derby set July 26 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. A brand-new motorcycle will also be given to the fastest kill champion. Entry fee is P6,600 while minimum bet is P4,400. Interested parties may contact 833-2275 and 833-1638 for reservation of cockhouses. Rolly Ligon's newest promotion is a follow-up to the "Hattah-Hattah 5-Cock Derby" (293 entries) last week, where seven entries emerged as co-champions: MTJ (Marfil Dumlao), Virjun (lawyer Manguera), Dream Catcher (Dong Lacson), Adamas (Dicky Lim), MNSU (Nelson Uy), Limbas (Fred Iloilo) and Don Bosco. The sponsors are Pagcor Casino Filipino-Parañaque, Thunderbird Enertone and Ninja Gamefowl Feeds. For details, contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

St. Francis of Assisi golfest at W'Wack

THE 1ST St. Francis of Assisi Golf Cup will be held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City tomorrow. Organized by the Silver Jubilarians of Class 1979 of the alumni associations of Lourdes School of Quezon City and Mandaluyong, the event is sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, PLDT, Smart and PNB. Tee off is at 8-10 a.m. For details, contact Conrad Fajardo (0918-9382012) or Norman Cabrera (0917-9038300).

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Spirited Lady 2. Trick Shot 3. Michael's Way/Camille Molly

Race 2—1. Kagilagilalas 2. War Epic 3. Star material 4. Coolmore

Race 3—1. Speed Charm 2. Magnanimous 3. Simply Great 4. Gold Prosperity 5. Samahan

Race 4—1. Heading West 2. River Bee 3. Sacred Hall 4. Silent Wind

Race 5—1. Concorde/Petro Dollar 2. Queen Matawe 3. Galil 4. Prince Nicholas 5. Friendly Venture

Race 6—1. Holy King 2. Signal Mountain 3. Super Cool 4. Nitty Gritty 5. Hurricane Doding

Race 7—1. Successful Dream 2. Cash McCall 3. Aba Aba Aba 4. Mr. Lucas 5. Day and Night

Race 8—1. Maginoo's Pride 2. Treasured Medal 3. Demolition Jack 4. Don't Tell Me

Race 9—1. Arrivederci 2. Virgin Atlantic 3. Cause of Our Joy 4. Laguna Gold 5. Court General 6. Top Quest

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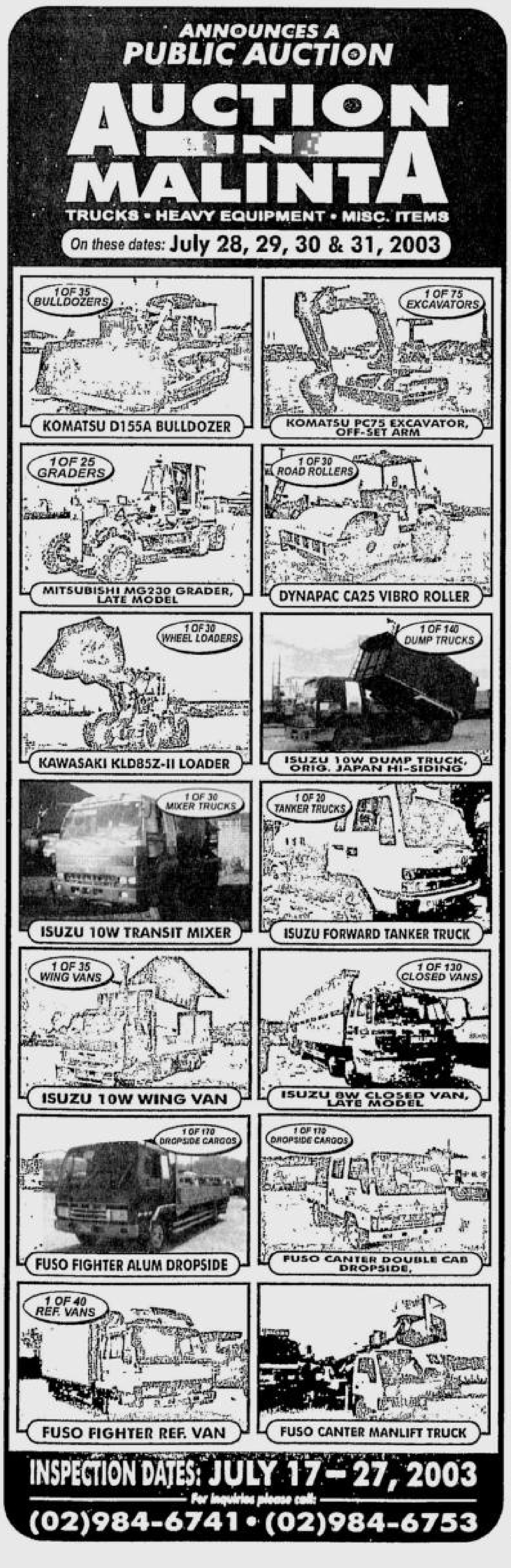

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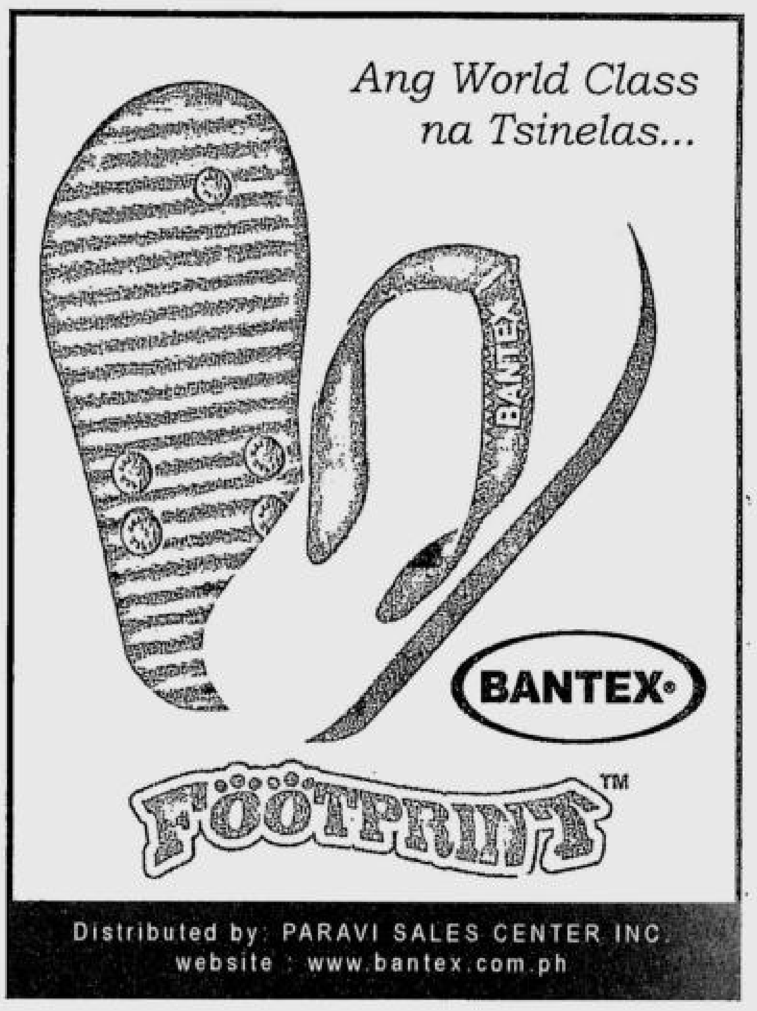

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Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design
Arios Espin

Wedding paradise at island resort

WEDDINGS become cherished memories through the years. The beginning of your beautiful union as husband and wife.

Live out the wedding of your dreams at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort. Let the resort's sprawling grounds be the setting of this once-in-lifetime event—a perfect setting as the pages of your storybook romance unfold.

Bask in the sheer beauty of nature in a tropical garden reception. Greens are greener and flowers burst in color on your special day. You may opt for an elegant setting at the ballroom against a backdrop of sparkling chandeliers and gleaming silverware while musicians serenade you with their sonorous music. And as if these are not enough, why not a romantic seaside soiree amidst the gentle breeze of the sea and the soothing lullaby of the waves?

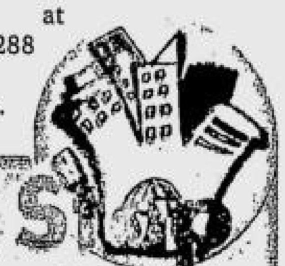
The possibilities are endless.

The resort's dedicated Events team guarantee a worry-free reception down to the last detail. Truly, Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort is the ideal wedding venue. Trust us to give you a reception close to perfection.

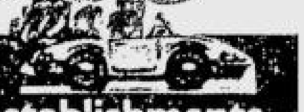
At Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort, your dreams become reality.

For a minimum of 150 persons, choose from buffet or plate service options complementing the special wedding package. For more information and inquiries, call the resort's events department at 231-0288 ext. 68264.

Live out the wedding of your dreams at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort.



Where to Stop
Where to GO



A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarin-oriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

All American favorites at The Bellevue

IF YOU thought American food was only about Hamburgers and French fries, think again. To celebrate the American Independence Day, The Bellevue Hotel is hosting a food festival between July 4 to 20, to celebrate the wholesome and varied cuisine of the land of the brave and the free.

The festival, which will offer sumptuous delights all the way from Alaska right down to Hawaii, will give guests an opportunity to explore all their gastronomic desires. On offer will be delicious burritos, succulent barbecued ribs, yummy shrimp and prawn *jambalaya*, exotic oyster Rockefellers, buffalo wings and cheese dip, roast choice of rib with US beef, among others. For foodies who have a sweet tooth, there will be delectable American apple pie, New York cheesecake and pecan pie. Diners can tuck into all of this to their hearts content at a reasonable price of P490 plus taxes.

The Bellevue Hotel, which opened earlier this year, has consistently kept up its excellent international standards. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, a high-tech interactive business center, elegant rooms, convenient location, impeccable service and delectable food, this hotel has already become a premier choice of residence in South Manila. Come and experience 5-star treatment at The Bellevue Hotel.

Romantic interludes at Taal Vista Hotel

TAGAYTAY'S awe-inspiring sights and soothing mist of clean cool mountain air are just some of the reasons people are often enchanted to this place. However, activities in Tagaytay go beyond family picnics, weekend escapades with friends and horseback riding. It offers, rather, special experiences of enduring value as complemented by Taal Vista Hotel.

Whether you are celebrating a special occasion or just spending time with your loved one, Taal Vista Hotel sets the mood for romance and an experience you will never forget, through the hotel's fabulous "Romance Package." Priced at only P6,000 net for an overnight stay in a Deluxe Room. This unique offer includes breakfast in bed for two persons, a soothing body massage for two, a bottle of sparkling wine, welcome amenities of chocolates and other special surprises. The "Romance Package" was designed to complement the hotel's unmatched panorama of Taal Volcano and Taal Lake and was inspired by the hotel's commitment in providing "only the very best" to guests. With the initial renovations, giving it a "refreshing" new look and character, of the hotel now completed and the new team of staff trained and managed by the Barceló Group, expect to experience a renewed charm and hospitality from Taal Vista Hotel.

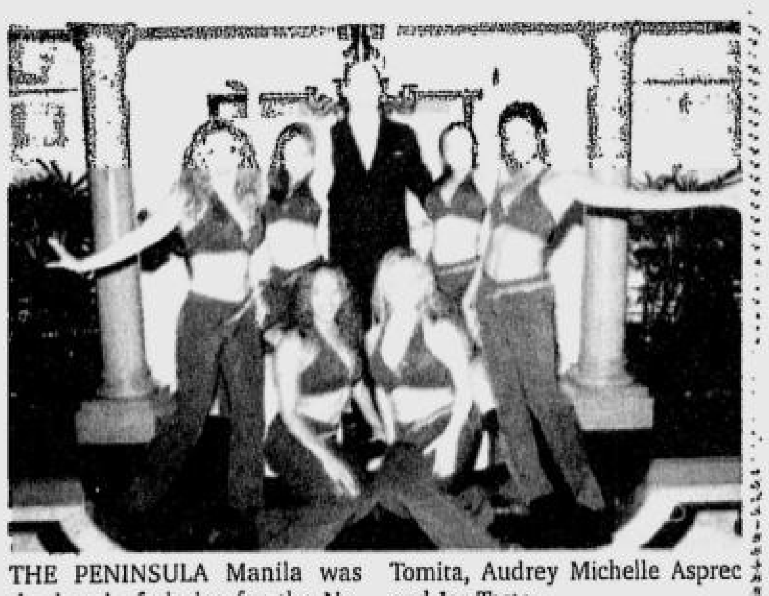
The other Philippine properties under the care of Barceló Hotels and Resorts are The Barceló Pearl Farm Island Resort in Samal Island, Barceló Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center in Iloilo City, Barceló Asturias Hotel in Puerto Princesa, Barceló Eagle Point Resort in Mabini, Batangas, and the exclusive Club Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas. Each property has its own unique charm and character, but all carry with it Barceló's distinct brand of service.

Taal Vista Hotel invites you to immerse yourself in Tagaytay and experience bliss through a romantic interlude in the sky. For inquiries on the "Romance Package" special offer, call its Manila sales office at 830-2373 and 867-1159. You must visit its website at www.barcelo-asia.com.

New World Renaissance garners Asia Pacific Sales Award

THE 600-room New World Renaissance Hotel was given the Event Management Team of the Year 2002 award at the recent Asia Pacific Sales Leaders Meeting of the Marriott Hotels group in the region. The Event Management team of the deluxe property bested 86 other hotels under the Marriott umbrella of hotel chains namely: Marriott, Renaissance, Courtyard, Ramada, and Residence Inn. Headed by director of Event Management Susan Roxas (third from left), the team was cited for its smart handling of pop-up bookings, driving revenue, and creative meeting packages. Shown, from left, are sales executive Carol Zarraga, bridal and social consultant Czats Turiano, Roxas, sales assistant Gwen Hufano, sales executive Anne de Vera and sales executive Kaye Gatapia. The Event Management Department falls under the sales and marketing division which also includes the field sales group, sales center, and the communications department.

The Golden State Warrior Girls at the Peninsula Manila



THE PENINSULA Manila was the hotel of choice for the National Basketball Association (NBA) Golden State Warrior Girls during their visit to the Philippines.

The NBA Golden State Warrior Girls are an explosive dance team that performs routines during pre-game introductions, time-outs, quarter breaks and half-time.

Under the direction of dance director Shelby Alexander, The Warrior Girls are composed of Nicole King, Katie Wells, Sanae Tomita, Audrey Michelle Asprec and Jen Testa.

Dancing runs through the veins of many of the Warrior Girls. Many of them have been dancing since they were five years old. Their dance experience ranges from jazz, tap, ballet and lyrical, to funk, hip-hop, Hawaiian hula, modern and African dance.

The Peninsula Manila resident manager Hans Hordijk is pictured with the NBA Golden State Warrior Girls at the Peninsula Suite.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TERMINATOR 3	1 TERMINATOR 3	ArtFilm 1 DANCER IN THE DARK 11.30, 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 TERMINATOR 3 12.20, 2.45, 5.10, 7.35, 10.00	THX 1 TERMINATOR 3
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	2 TERMINATOR 3 11.40, 2.05, 4.30, 6.55, 9.30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 TERMINATOR 3 1.00, 3.25, 5.50, 8.15, 10.40	2 TERMINATOR 3
3 THE HUNTED	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 TERMINATOR 3 1.40, 2.10, 4.40, 7.10, 9.40		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HULK - 1.00, 3.40 TERMINATOR 3 6.30, 8.55, 11.20	3 TERMINATOR 3
4 TERMINATOR 3	4 DUMB & DUMBERER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE HUNTED 12.25, 2.35, 4.45, 6.55, 9.05, 11.15	4 THE HUNTED
	5 28 DAYS LATER		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12.40, 2.50, 5.00, 7.10, 9.20, 11.30	CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
	6 TERMINATOR 3			
	7 THE HUNTED			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	28 DAYS LATER
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	THE HULK
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	TERMINATOR-3
6 GOLD (SDDS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	TERMINATOR-3
8	THE HUNTED
9	DUMB & DUMBERER
10	PIGLET THE MOVIE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3

(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	KAPIT BAHAY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	TERMINATOR-3
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
4	THE HUNTED
5	TERMINATOR-3
6	TERMINATOR-3

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	JUST MARRIED

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

TERMINATOR-3

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
2	THE HULK

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	DANCER IN THE DARK
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
9 (DOLBY)	THE HUNTED

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2	THE HULK
3	THE HUNTED
4 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
8	
9	

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
5	THE HUNTED

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	TERMINATOR-3

Sampaquita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TERMINATOR-3

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	JAILBIRD
Lords	BETTER THAN SEX
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
4	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030, 879.2029

1	XEREX
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	HULK
2	28 DAYS LATER
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
4 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR 3
5 (DTS)	CHARLES ANGELS 2
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7	THE HUNTED

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	BIGAY HILIG
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ADAPTATION
2 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4	TERMINATOR-3

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	28 DAYS LATER
2 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE HUNTED
2	THE HULK
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	GIGAY HILIG
2	DARKNESS FALLS
3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
4 (THX)	SO CLOSE

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	SO CLOSE
2 (DTS)	DARKNESS FALLS
3	BIGAY HILIG

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HIGH RISK
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3 (DTS)	HINOG SA PILIT
4	RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	ANGEL SA LUPA
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5	28 DAYS LATER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
3	28 DAYS LATER

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	TUMITIBK KUMIKIROT
3 (DTS)	THE EYE
4	CONFESSION OF DANGEROUS MIND

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (THX)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HIRAM
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	A MAN APART
2	WISH MASTER
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	PIGLET THE MOVIE

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TERMINATOR-3
2	ABANDON
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	MUNTING TINIG
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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Level 4

Festival Supermall Filinvest - Alabang

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TERMINATOR 3
RISE OF THE MACHINES

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173888

1	DUMB & DUMBERER
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
8	HULK

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	HULK
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	DUMB & DUMBERER
2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	THE HUNTED
9	HULK
10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
12	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	THE HUNTED
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	MUNTING TINIG
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	HULK
12	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	THE HUNTED
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	DUMB & DUMBERERER
8	28 DAYS LATER
9	HULK
10	TERMINATOR 3
11	ANG TANGING INA
12	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	THE HUNTED
2	HULK
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	TERMINATOR 3

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	DANCER IN THE DARK
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	HULK
7	THE HUNTED
8	TERMINATOR 3
9	28 DAYS LATER
10	DUMB & DUMBERER

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
5	MUNTING TINIG
6	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
7	HULK
8	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	ANG KAPITBAHAY
2	CLOSED
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	HULK
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	CLOSED
8	MGA MUNTING TINIG

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128016

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	THE HUNTED
4	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
5	MUNTING TINIG
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	THE HUNTED
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	HULK
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

633-8976

1	**TERMINATOR 3** 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
2	**CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2** 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

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Galleria

632-9115-16
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THX	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	HULK
8	THE HUNTED
9	DUMB & DUMBERER
10	28 DAYS LATER

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

536-7809-12

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	THE HUNTED
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Metro East - Marcos hway

682-8193 / 8280

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	28 DAYS LATER

Novaliches

935-3229-30

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	HULK
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	THE HUNTED
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	TERMINATOR 3

Malabon Citisquare

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	REAL CANCUN

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(045)961-5270

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	SMALL VOICES
3	SOUL KEEPER
4	TUMITIBOK..KUMIKIROT
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	TERMINATOR 3

Imus

471-8188 / 875-3838

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	THE HUNTED
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	TERMINATOR 3

Sta. Rosa Laguna

(049)837-0907

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	THE HUNTED
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5	TERMINATOR 3

Bacolod

441-0453 / 0459

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	THE HUNTED
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	SMALL VOICES
6	BALIKATAN

Iloilo

396-8077-78

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	KAPIT BAHAY
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	THE GURU
6	SMALL VOICES

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Two new series on Star World

From page A25

vigorating the local performing scene with its new laboratory arm, Theater Now, which seeks to present plays with daring and intriguing theme.

First to start performing at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Vito Cruz, Manila is **Rene Villanueva's** "Mabini: Utak ng Himagsikan" (July 25-27).

From Aug. 15 to 17, the twin bill of **Victor Torres'** "Cafe Vittorio" and **Liza Magtoto's** "Despedida de Soltera" will be performed.

Sept. 26-28: **Arnold Schnitzler's** "La Ronde" Oct. 10-12, **Matt Crowley's** "Boys in the Band." Dec. 12-14, **Juan Flavier Pablo's** "Sweet Thunder."

And **Mark Reyes'** "Grethology" will be performed at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo starting Jan. 16 next year. Call 899-5745.

Feedback

FROM **Armina R. Olegario** of Makati City: "I've noticed that the audience for good movies has been increasing. Some good films have even become big hits, which is a heartening development that should encourage more producers and directors to make even better films. In this connection, I would like to make special mention of Star Cinema, which has not succumbed to the temptation to go with the flow and make cheap sex films. Instead of suffering financially, the studio's relatively wholesome movies have been making money, a sign that the public is supportive of Star Cinema's responsible approach to filmmaking."

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	HULK
Ali 2	28 DAYS LATER
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 5	CHARLES ANGELS 2
Ali 6	DUMB & DUMBERER
Ali 7	THE HUNTED

ARANETA COLISEUM

JULY 11	PBA GAMES
JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 13	UAAP GAMES
JULY 25 & 26	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE HUNTED
CINEMA-6	HULK
CINEMA-7	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-8	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGLES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-12	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-14	28 DAYS LATER
CINEMA-15	DUMB & DUMBERER
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA 2	THE EYE
CINEMA 3	A MAN APART
CINEMA 4	TUMTIBOK KUMIKIROT
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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CINEMA 1	**TERMINATOR 3** 10:50, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 **PG13**
CINEMA 2	**CHARLIE'S ANGELS** 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 **PG13**

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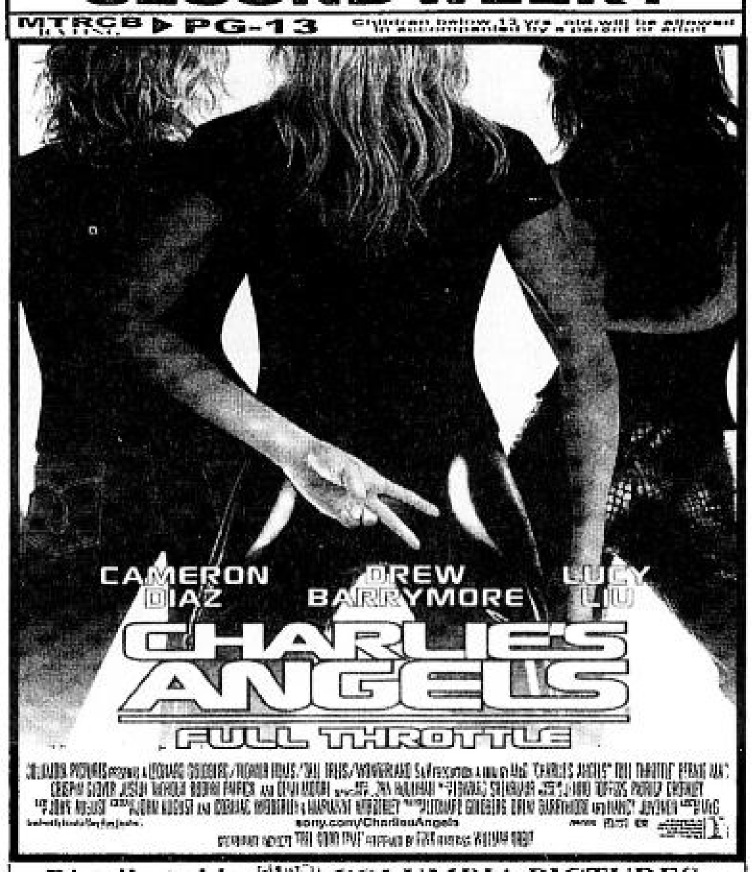
MUSIC MUSEUM

JULY 18 & 19 2003	REX NAVARRETE	9:00PM
JULY 25 2003	"JOURNEY" (DESSA / RANNIE RAYMUNDO)	8:30PM

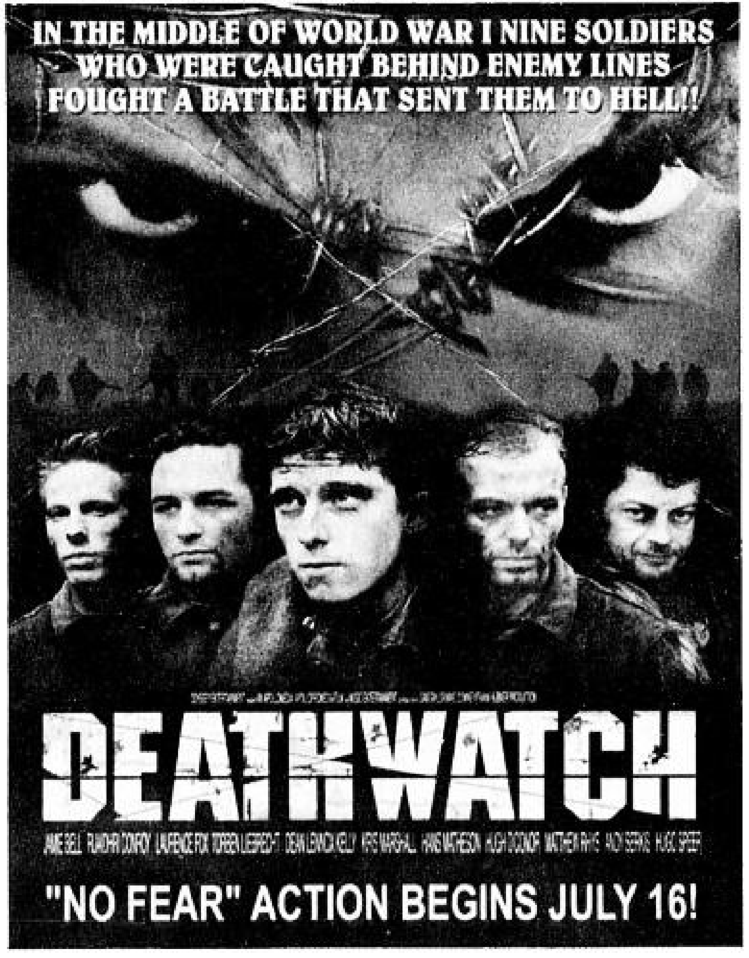
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


CAMERON DIAZ
DREW BARRYMORE
LUCY LIU
CHARLIE'S ANGELS
FULL THROTTLE
sony.com/CharliesAngels

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING R-13 Strictly 13 years and up


IN THE MIDDLE OF WORLD WAR I NINE SOLDIERS WHO WERE CAUGHT BEHIND ENEMY LINES FOUGHT A BATTLE THAT SENT THEM TO HELL!!
DEATHWATCH
JAMIE BELL RUAIDHRI CONROY LAURENCE FOX TORBEN LIEBRECHT DEAN LENNOX KELLY KRIS MARSHALL HANS MATHESON HUGH O'CONOR MATTHEW RHYS ANDY SERKIS HUGO SPEER
"NO FEAR" ACTION BEGINS JULY 16!

2ND "CYBORG WAR" DAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13

SCHWARZENEGGER
TERMINATOR 3
RISE OF THE MACHINES
terminator3.com

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

RATED R-13 BY THE MTRCB
TATLONG HENERASYON NG ACTION STARS
KASAMA ANG HOT BABE NG BAYAN
SA ISANG PELIKULANG
PUNO NG ANGAS AT TIGAS!

ACE VERGEL
VICTOR NERI
MIKEY ARROYO
MAUI TAYLOR
and
EDDIE GARCIA
Masamang Ugat
Introducing: GWEN GARCI
DIRECTED BY WILFREDO MILAN DGPI
VIVA

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at the AYALA MALLS this month!

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JULY 16 - 31
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GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

HOME SALE
July 26-Aug.8
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

TARGET SALE
special discounts on apparel, shoes, and leathergoods
Aug. 15-30
AYALA CENTER
CEBU

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JULY 16 ONLY AT Art Film
DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY

MIRANDA
SMART SEXY DANGEROUS

A fresh and uniquely quirky romance redolent of a more indulgent cinema of yesteryear.

CHRISTINA RICCI is
MIRANDA
also starring
KYLE McCLACHLAN, JOHN SIMM & JOHN HURT

A small-town librarian (John Simm) falls head-over-heels with a beautiful stranger (Cristina Ricci). She is secretly enmeshed in a darkly complex web of intrigue and deceit between her con artist-mentor (John Hurt) and a sleazy millionaire (Kyle MacLachlan). Seeking solace in the bright albeit naive embrace of her loopy new lover, but it's anybody's guess whether they'll emerge unscathed from this high-stakes game.

Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

MTRCB Rating:
Restricted 18 (R-18)
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SCHWARZENEGGER
TERMINATOR 3
RISE OF THE MACHINES

ENTERTAINME

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
ie C. Camino

Amalia: Fire no big deal

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE FIRE that hit the New Manila house of actress Amalia Fuentes last Tuesday did not cause any major damage, according to the actress.

She corrected Tuesday's news reports that described the fire as big. She said she was even surprised to see nine firetrucks parked in front of the house.

"There was no big fire," said Fuentes, who was the biggest rival of Susan Roces for the title queen of Philippine movies. "It was all smoke because of the foam."

Fuentes said she sought the help of the arson division of the Quezon City Fire Department to investigate the incident.

"They ruled out arson because the house is not insured," she said. "They are now checking whether the construction workers are positive for drugs."

Fuentes said a cigarette butt thrown by a construction worker started the fire in her house on Fourth Street in New Manila, Quezon City. She had hired the workers to renovate the house, she said.

"I think the fire started when one of them, after eating lunch, smoked and threw the cigarette butt in the basement where an old foam was stored," Fuentes explained.

The fire started at 1:30 p.m. when the construction men were about to resume work, she said. The Quezon City Fire Department responded with nine firetrucks, she added.

The part of the house that burned was a basement room that was used as an air raid shelter during World War II and could withstand direct bombing, she said. It held most of the family's old furniture, she said.

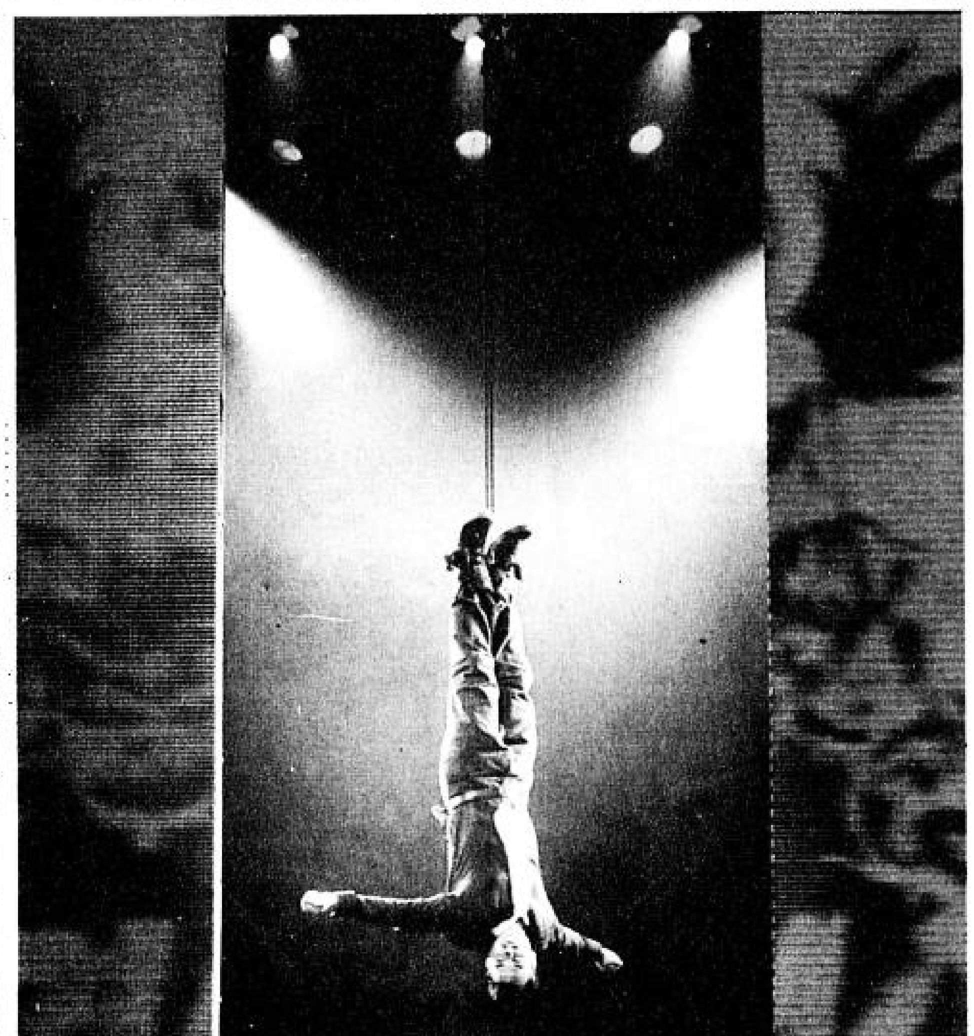
"There was nothing valuable in that basement," she added.

Fuentes is staying in a nearby house that she also owns.

She said news of the fire worried her friends and relatives from as far as the United States.

"I was swamped with phone calls, and my grandchildren were so worried," she said.

FUENTES wants to assure her friends and relatives that the fire did not do major damage. FILE PHOTO



ROBBIE SWINGS Pop singer Robbie Williams, known as the "bad boy" of British rock, performs in an unusual position during his concert at the Munich Olympic stadium. The July 6 show is part of his European tour. REUTERS

Show biz, Mother Lily's way

DollyWood

Dolly Ann Carvajal

THE CONTROVERSY about **Lorna Tolentino** and **Dina Bonnevie**'s "rift" regarding the much-coveted role in Regal Films' "Mano Po 2" has been blown out of proportion. I know both LT and Dina are both too much of a lady to let such petty concerns get to them.

It's not just a gimmick because the role that was first offered to LT really went to Dina instead. That's a fact, but the circumstances surrounding it have been exaggerated. That's show biz the **Mother Lily** way. But since Mother Lily (Monteverde) is well-loved in the industry, she can get away with anything.

Kabayan not moving

MY UNIMPEACHABLE source relayed to me that there is no truth to the rumor that Sen. **Noli de Castro** is moving to GMA 7 as an offshoot of the ongoing controversy between his wife **Arlene de Castro** and **Dong Puno** in ABS-CBN 2's news & current affairs department.

Newscasters and other media men used to be confined to just delivering the news. These days, they have become like show biz personalities who are plagued by intrigues as well.

I remember when Kabayan Noli was the voiceover announcer in my mom's show, "See True," many years ago. He announced the phone-in questions for my mom and her guests. Even if he has hit the big time now, he still has not forgotten his humble beginnings. Every time I bump into him, he would ask me how my mom is doing. And when I start talking to him in English, he would tease me, "*Huwag ka maging masyadong Inglesera. Hindi ka kikita niyan.*"

With his down-to-earth attitude, it's no surprise why the *masa* adores him.

Diether's Blow

DIETHER Ocampo is busy preparing for his coming birthday. What makes it more special is that the celebration will coincide with the launch of the debut album of his band Blow.

I heard the band performs live and I must say that they will surely blow you away.

Ces turns 41

ANOTHER July–born friend is **Ces Drilon**, who will hold a double celebration. On her birthday, she will also be opening another branch of her magazine shop cum art gallery Mag:Net+ in Makati.

Ces does not look like she's turning 41. I teased her, "Everybody is raving about how fab **Demi Moore** looks in 'Charlie's Angels Full Throttle' even when she's already 40. Wait till Demi sees you. She'll feel insecure."

John and Heart

TEEN heartthrobs **John Prats** and **Heart Evangelista** have been named by Ivan Entertainment and Circle of 10 Image Model Search 2003 as Image Models of the Year. They will receive their awards in a special segment during the finals of this year's hunt for the country's 10 most refreshing faces and personalities in advertising on Aug. 9 at the Star Theater, Star City, CCP Complex. John and Heart want to clarify that they didn't have a lover's quarrel recently, contrary to some reports. As usual, little things get magnified in the intrigue-laden world of show biz.

True Faith gigs

FOR True Faith fanatics *comme moi* here's the band's July sched of gigs: July 11, UP Bahay ng Alumni and Cuneta Astrodome; July 12, Ratsky's Malate; July 18, Naga Planet B; July 19, Legaspi Renaissance; July 23, Filinvest Mall; July 25, Hard Rock; July 26, Virgin Café; July 31, Flat Rocks Los Baños.

Personal

Merci beaucoup to B.H. for making me fly high just when I needed to get out of a bottomless pit.

Thanks a mil to my sparring partner **Vince Datiles** for seeing me through all ups, downs and in between.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

DID YOU KNOW...

Correction, please. ABS-CBN talk show host **Boy Abunda** is still open to running for public office in his hometown in Borongan, Eastern Samar, contrary to an earlier item that said he would not run in any election. Boy, who hosts "The Buzz," "Kontrobersyal" and "Private Conversations," is now quoted as saying he would not run in the 2004 elections because that would be too soon, but he could be ready by 2007 or 2010. Which should be good news for his *nanay*, Borongan Councilor **Licerna Abunda**. There's hope, after all, for Eastern Samar.

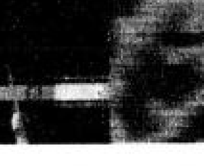
POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE HUNTED R13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 11:30,2:00.4 30,7 00,9:30	CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 12:40.3:00 5 20,7:40, 10:00
TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE - GP 12 50.2 35 4 20 DUMB & DUMBERER - PG13 6.00 8.00	TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Two new series on Star World

Viewfinder



Nestor U. Torre

STAR World premieres two new series this month.

"Third Watch," a high-action drama, leads off on July 14, and will be telecast Mondays at 10 p.m. and Tuesdays at 1:30 a.m. and 12 noon. The series is an intense drama about the brave dedicated policemen, paramedics and firefighters on the "third watch," the shift from 3 to 11 p.m., as they strive to keep the streets safe. And, on July 21, the comedy, "Yes, Dear," introduces viewers to two young couples who have outrageous views about parenting. Meet Kim and Greg, uptight and neurotic parents who are are trying to raise the perfect kid, and Christine and Jimmy, who are much more down to earth. "Yes, Dear" will be telecast at 9 p.m., and Tuesdays at 12 midnight, 3 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Star World is also presenting new seasons of popular shows. Beginning July 9, "Charmed" will telecast Series 5 at 9 p.m. on Saturdays and 12:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Once more, the Halliwell sisters protect the innocent, vanquish evil and right all wrongs, even when they're much too young to be burdened with such weighty responsibilities.

On July 25, "Nash Bridges" starts its new season. Continue to follow the exploits of a topnotch police investigator (played by **Don Johnson**) who works with the elite special investigators unit of the San Francisco police force.

And "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" is launching its sixth season Thursdays at 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., Fridays at 2:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. Emmy awardee **Sarah Michelle Gellar** stars as a quick-witted young woman whose duty as the sole vampire slayer of her generation is to protect the world from the undead. In her heart of hearts, however, she longs to live a normal, uneventful life.

Theater Now

ASIDE from its regular theater season, which starts on Aug. 1, the Gantimpala Theater Foundation is in-

TWO/A24

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING AT ArtFilm
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WINNER!
Palme d'Or & Best Actress - Cannes Film Festival
Best Foreign Language Film - Independent Spirit Awards
Best Cinematic Breakthrough (Bjork) - Online Film Critics Society Awards
Best European Feature & Best Actress - European Film Awards
Bjork Catherine Deneuve David Morse
Dancer in the Dark
In a world of shadows, she found the light of life.
Set in rural America in 1964, an immigrant single mother who works at a factory takes refuge in song & dance, when her world steadily loses light
"This is a film like no other this year, and for that alone you should see it."
- Peter Brunette, FILM.COM
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

THURSDAY
rated prime nights
RPN
Baby Bob
When Baby Bob opens his mouth... you won't believe what you'll hear.
7:00PM
Sabrina The Teenage Witch
Melissa Joan Hart delivers the fun and magic.
7:30PM
Felicity
Keri Russell discovers life and love in her journey through adulthood.
8:00PM
Crossing Jordan
Jill Hennesy is beauty, brains and guts as a medical expert in a Boston Coroner's office.
9:00PM
Hidden Hills
A happy marriage is a partnership of Justin Louis & Paula Marshall.
10:30PM

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
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RP raises $750M from bond sale

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES raised $750 million from a new sovereign bond issue, higher than the original target of $500 million due to strong investor interest.

The issue was increased in size after the offering attracted orders worth $2.5 billion.

Underwritten by Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, and JP Morgan Securities Inc., the bond issue would pay investors a yield of 8.25 percent, lower compared to similar bonds sold in January and November that fetched 9.509 percent and 9.125 percent. The new bonds will mature in January 2014.

With the slight increase in the tenor, the government paid an extra 20 basis points compared to the going rate of 10-year Philippine bonds in the secondary market, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Fives times oversubscribed, the finance chief said the government was "very pleased" with the results of the borrowing, the entire proceeds of which would go to the cash-strapped National Power Corp.

Napocor said it would raise its remaining $250-million financing requirement in the third quarter through a bond issue.

The power firm has two pending bond sales worth $250 million each, one to be guaranteed by the Asian Development Bank and the other by the Overseas Private Investment Corp.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza explained that the Philippines was able to borrow at 8.25 percent, lower than the indicative range of 8.375 to 8.5 percent before the bonds were priced early Wednesday morning.

Traders agreed that despite volatile market conditions, the government was able to sell the bonds at a reasonable rate and a considerable volume.

For risk-averse investors, the Philippines bonds are not exactly the wisest buy after the country suffered two successive rating downgrades in the second quarter, from Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

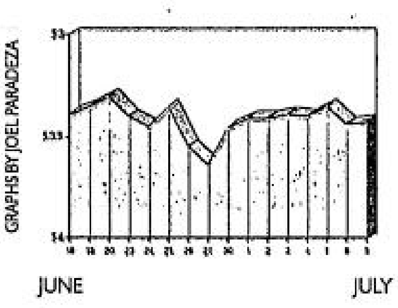
But with a spread of 4.61 points over benchmark US treasuries, investors would enjoy reasonable returns compared to safer placements. The spread reflects the premium that investors require in relation to potential risks.

"The conditions were difficult but we were able to pull it off. This gives us greater flexibility in our remaining borrowing requirements, but it is too early to contemplate any future issuance," Camacho said.

Traders credited Edeza for having "orchestrated a successful deal" at a time when offshore interest rates were starting to go up and spreads on Philippines borrowings were widening.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY JOEL PARADEZA

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P53.43 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 9, 2003

¥118.24 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 9, 2003

GOLD: $344.50-345.00
per ounce Hong Kong, July 9, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down on profit-taking

SHARE prices closed 0.51 percent lower yesterday on profit-taking following recent sharp gains, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 6.7 points to 1,295.92.

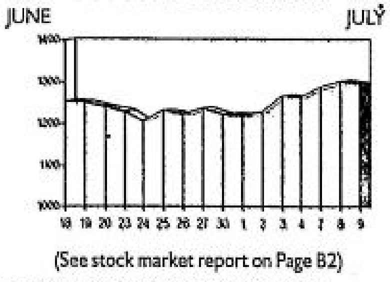
Turnover fell to 374.99 million shares worth P506.22 million from Tuesday's 1.01 billion shares valued at P726.69 million.

Decliners beat advancers 45 to 20, with 32 stocks unchanged.

The market's decline was pared by a cross transaction of 48.15 million shares of ICTSI valued at P142.52 million shortly before the close.

Dealers said a technical correction was necessary as Wednesday's lethargic turnover suggests investors chose to stay on the sidelines since most blue chips reached overbought levels. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Gov't keeps June budget deficit below target

THE GOVERNMENT'S budget deficit in June stood at P13 billion, bringing the six-month fiscal gap to P88.4 billion or way below the P102.2-billion ceiling for the period, INQUIRER sources said yesterday.

The Macapagal administration is now looking to trim the full-year deficit to P189 billion or P13 billion lower compared to its P202-billion ceiling for the year as a result of improving tax and tariff collections alongside prudent spending.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho agreed that the six-month fiscal numbers were "looking good" based on preliminary numbers.

Camacho said the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs have been meeting their targets while spending was kept at conservative levels.

"We are very confident of meeting our full-year target of P202 billion. If we do better, then that would be a bonus," the finance chief said.

Last year, the budget deficit swelled to P210.7 billion against a target of P130 billion due to poor revenue collection coupled with excessive spending.

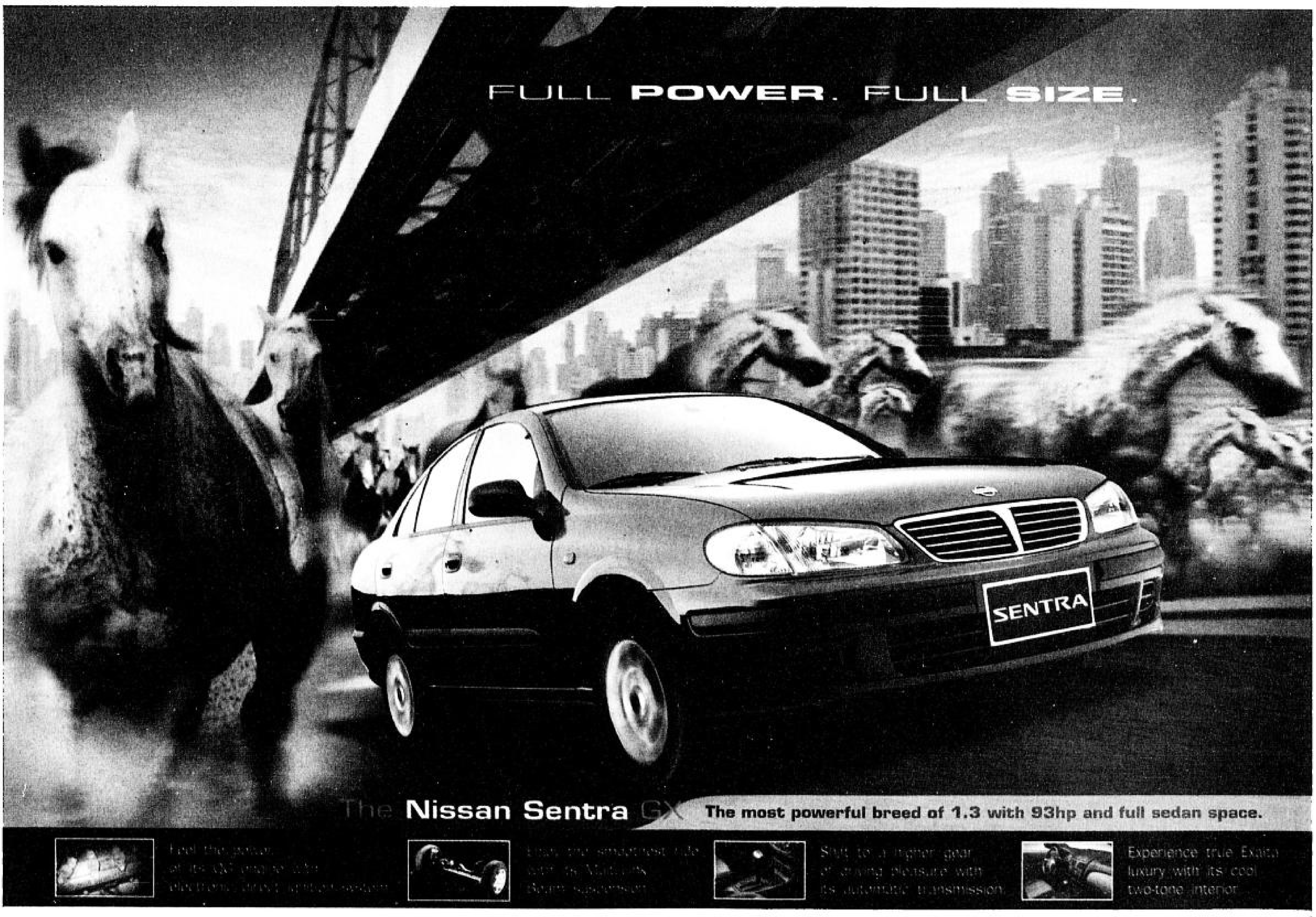
This could be the first time in five years that the government may keep the deficit below the target. Since 1998, the government had been incurring a deficit that has become a big factor in eroding investor confidence in the Philippines.

Government sources said the economic team has started to revisit the targets for 2003 as well as for the succeeding years.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said that based on her department's computations, the government was able to limit expenditures in June at "between P54 billion and P55 billion" or lower than the target of P57 billion for the month.

"We have been able to keep spending on track since April because we really tightened our releases," the budget chief said.

Clarissa S. Batino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Baking and penance

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMETHING is cooking or baking or whatever at the United Coconut Planters Bank, known as UCPB for short, now celebrating its 17th year of sequestration.

It seems that the media got hold of an apparent UCPB "in-house audit." It detailed the loans of three companies. The loans amount to something like P2.7 billion. Big deal!

Unfortunately, the loans are current. In other words, they are not among the hundreds of billions of pesos worth of bad, frightening loans in the banking system.

In banking, it simply means that UCPB is making money out of the loans. That's perhaps why, lately, the loans made headlines. For UCPB to make money was big news.

* * *

IN banking, anyway, they usually do not "commission" a special in-house audit on loans that are doing quite well, thank you so very much.

Otherwise, all the banks in this country will just bury themselves into roomful of useless reports. Unless of course the banks are all run by the government.

That particular UCPB report, therefore, plus its obvious leak to the media, must have something else in it than just a banking issue.

Perhaps, let me see, it has something to do with the growing excitement of the public over the current love affairs of Kris Aquino. Or it can also be politics!

* * *

REPORTS said the P2.7 billion in loans went to companies which were somehow connected to Danding Cojuangco, chair and CEO of San Miguel.

His right-hand man is San Miguel president and COO Ramon Ang, who is said to be a stockholder of those companies which borrowed the money from UCPB.

The group of Danding used to control UCPB, first under the Marcos dictatorship, and then, for some two years, during the time of the man named Band…Wrist Band.

But today Danding is said to be interested in running for president in 2004. Oops.

No wonder, even in the Monetary Board, I heard that they smell politics in all this.

* * *

ABOUT three years ago, this cute administration took over the management of UCPB from the Danding group. Again, that was three years ago.

After three years of control of the bank, some bright guys in this cute administration perhaps think that the timing is just perfect for a lot of media noise.

What they did in all those three years is up to them, of course, but today, they must pick on the loans which the bank gave to companies that somehow had something to do with a presidential aspirant.

Among the coffee shop habitués (i.e. bums), they are betting 2 to 1 that the noise came from the camp of Triple R.

* * *

REPORTS said that the loans are current. The borrowing companies are paying the loans religiously. So Houston, what is your problem?

Let's say that it's now a crime to borrow money from banks. It is such a dastardly act that doing penance is not enough. Anybody who incurs bank debt faces death by drowning in dirty toilets at any government office.

The whole point is, if such a crime existed, why are the political handlers of this cute administration making all that noise only after three years?

For a little clue, you may want to listen to this member of the worried Monetary Board: "Indeed, why only now?"

* * *

FOR the bad press on the loans may not only damage the image of Danding, it also bounces on the Bangko Sentral and the Monetary Board.

As millions of that shameful immoral act of borrowing from the bank were being committed, those guys at the Bangko Sentral and in the Monetary Board did nothing.

To think, the Monetary Board is actually worried about UCPB over its bad loans—not the current money-making loans.

You see, UCPB incurred billions upon billions of loans which turned sour, when the bank was under the complete control of the PCGG during the time of Kuya Eddie.

* * *

TODAY, therefore, the Monetary Board, together with the state corporation PDIC, wants to rehabilitate UCPB.

Some 17 long years ago, as I said, the PCGG sequestered the bank. After being passed around to different management groups, the bank is now dying.

I am not kidding. The bank poses a real-life danger to its depositors. It can collapse, for instance, if the Monetary Board does not do anything.

The problem of UCPB is not just liquidity. It loses a lot of money year in and year out. Its problem is already one of solvency.

* * *

AND for all its yearly losses, the bank does not have the capital to charge them to, for instence, unlike our kids who can always charge it to their lola.

It cannot cover for all those bad loans during the time of Kuya Eddie, such as the big loans for the Centennial Park or the real estate ventures of Ever group's Jose Go.

That's why, the thinking in the Monetary Board is that they have to rehabilitate the bank, regardless of who will turn out, after the cases are resolved, to really own it.

Thus, now celebrating its 17th year of PCGG sequestration, the bank now undergoes the first part of its rehab. It gets P20 billion in taxpayer money.

* * *

INITIALLY, in that rehab plan, the government, through the PDIC, will inject fresh capital into UCPB. Of course PDIC will occupy eight seats in the board.

That, as I said, is only the first part. The real rehab will depend on the courts. How soon can the courts decide the cases involving the ownership of bank?

After 17 years of sequestration, the bank still does not know who actually owns it. Thus, nobody in the bank feels responsible enough, or even accountable enough, for it.

Eventually, the bank must have an "owner," who will then inject additional capital into it, or merge it with another foreign or local bank, and end this 17-year paralysis.

* * *

DESPITE the media noise from political handlers, nevertheless, the Monetary Board thinks that UCPB is a major bank.

Its deposits alone amount to something like P82 billion. The banking system cannot afford the collapse of a bank as big as UCPB.

It's just that the media stimulus coming from dirty politics is making the rehab somehow harder to do.

In banking, all the political noise from Triple R is creating a lot of uncertainty. It is bad for business.

Now, if it's bad for business, it's bad for this cute administration. Perhaps Triple R does not realize that. Well, who the fork cares?

Pryce to bail out gas subsidiary

By Doris C. Dumlao

MANUFACTURING and property holding firm Pryce Corp. plans to bail out its debt-ridden subsidiary Pryce Gases Inc. by contributing about P2 billion worth of property, including memorial lots, for payment to creditors.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Pryce said it would like to use the dacion en pago arrangement in helping its subsidiary pay off loans. It said it intended to increase its equity in PGI provided the creditor-banks would agree to restructure another P1 billion worth of debts.

Pryce is contributing these assets for the rehabilitation of PGI on the premise that it could avail itself of fiscal incentives under the Special Purpose Vehicle Act of 2002.

"With respect to property development, since the economic climate at this time may not be conducive to further capital investments, the company will defer in the meantime any additional outlay for memorial park projects, save for minor works to complete or enhance existing developments," Pryce said.

It noted that the survival of PGI was critical because this subsidiary accounted for 80-90 percent of its consolidated revenue and income.

"Pryce will then convert its exposure to equity in PGI to improve the latter's eroded capital base," the company said.

Pryce will also pay its own outstanding bank debts of about P553.5 million through dacion en pago.

"The company aims for a zero-debt scenario after the payment of its outstanding debts," it said.

"Furthermore, in the next few years, the company will continue disposing of its inventories of other real estate projects such as subdivisions and business parks.

Once these are disposed of, the remaining product lines will consist of memorial parks and gases, consisting of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) and industrial gases," the company said.

PGI incurred a loss of P1.05 billion in 2001. Due to its inability to service debts totaling P2.75 billion, two of its creditors filed a petition for corporate rehabilitation with the Makati Regional Trial Court in August 2002. PGI opposed the motion and filed its own rehabilitation plan, which was now under study by the court-appointed receiver.

Pryce's main business is property development in Southern Philippines. PGI manufactures and distributes LPG and industrial gases in Visayas and Mindanao.

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Metrobank to sell ₱10B in NPAs

By Elena R. Torrijos

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. is working on unloading an additional P10 billion worth of non-performing assets, while it is finalizing the sale within the month of P16.2 billion worth of non-performing loans to a group of foreign investors.

In an interview, Metrobank executive vice president and chief finance officer Alfredo Javellana II said the Asian Development Bank was interested in teaming up with other investors to acquire some of Metrobank's NPAs, a combination of non-performing loans and acquired assets, while investment firm Merrill Lynch was eyeing only the bank's acquired assets.

The discussions, he said, were still in the preliminary stage. "We will consider selling if there are investors willing to form a special purpose vehicle to acquire our NPAs," Javellana said.

Javellana also said the bank was expecting the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to approve soon an agreement to sell P16.2 billion in NPLs to a group of foreign investors.

Metrobank earlier agreed to sell P16.2 billion in NPLs to a group of foreign investors led by Dutch cooperative bank Rabo Bank. Under the agreement, the foreign investor group, to be considered as senior note holders, would pay Metrobank P5 billion in cash.

Javellana said the BSP's approval of the agreement would allow Metrobank to remove the P16.2 billion in soured loans from its books.

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• Tatco Paging Equipment • Motorola Transceivers • Fax Machines • Telephone Sets • Scanners

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• Industrial Blowers (Heavy Duty) 2 units • Assorted Capacitors • Pressure Pump (Heavy Duty) 1 unit
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 9, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	19.5	19	19.5	206,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49	49	48	48.5	488,200
China Banking Corp.	755	755	755	755	80
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	34	34.5	34	34.5	117,700
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.75	0.6	0.75	390,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	31	31.5	160,800
Philippine National Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	25.5	64,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	14	14	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	132,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	87,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1445	1450	1445	1450	980
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1070	1070	1070	240
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	22.5	22	22.25	26,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	910,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	705	700	700	131,720
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	1,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3	128,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.49	0.52	0.48	0.52	11,780,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	595	600	590	600	115,110
Ivantage Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	760,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	20,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	1,229,700
Manila Electric Co. B	18.25	18.5	17.75	18.5	1,435,400
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	2,102,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	4,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	48,957,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Concrete Aggregates A	10	10	10	10	1,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	19,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	214,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	4,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	164,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Swift Food, Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	38,800
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63.5	63	63.5	72,400
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	11,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.9	4.8	4.8	3,142,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	330,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.033	3,800,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	13,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.86	1.74	1.76	187,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.62	9,440,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
DMCI Holdings, Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	290,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	5,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	54,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.5	1,636,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	500,000
Ionics Inc.	0.88	0.95	0.88	0.94	2,910,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.72	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.34	9,070,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.37	6,770,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	500,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.28	440,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	15,300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	61,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	1,490,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.41	0.45	0.41	0.45	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	70,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	21.75	22	21.75	22	107,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	59,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	1,569,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	130,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	230,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	2,100,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	70,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	3,380,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	6,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	5,304,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	300,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,570,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.9	2	1.9	2	156,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	210,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	1,244,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	760,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	27,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	11,200,000
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	71,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,700,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,000,000

DISCLOSURES

ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 22, 3 p.m. at the McKinley Room of Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of July 11 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

JARDINE Davies Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 22, 2 p.m. at the 3/F Buendia Room of Mondragon House, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of July 7 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. named Alfredo Ramos, Yeong-Hsiang Yeh and Diana Aguilar as members of its audit committee. Vicente Paterno, Ramos and Yeh are members of the compensation committee while the nominations committee is composed of Paterno and Ramos.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. declared cash dividends of P1 per share for its series A, I, R, W, AA and BB 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stocks in favor of stockholders of record as of July 24.

* * *

ROBINSONS Land Corp.'s cash dividend of P0.05 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of June 27 is payable on July 21.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Holdings Inc. disclosed the resignation of Charles Yap Giok Twee as director of the company. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

July 09, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 9-Jul-03	MART1 8-Jul-03
1 Month	6.185	6.27
3 Months	6.2875	6.4346
6 Months	7.1833	7.1767
1 Year	7.8914	7.8696
2 Years	8.8567	8.7679
3 Years	9.655	9.6367
4 Years	10.0633	10.0467
5 Years	10.3203	10.2917
7 Years	11.2003	11.1517
10 Years	11.455	11.4633
20 Years	11.9883	12.01
25 Years	12.3783	12.3883

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

CURRENCIES

July 9, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.883314	1.000000	53.402000
Japan	Yen	0.007475	0.008462	0.451900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444484	1.635300	87.328300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113270	0.128233	6.847900
Switzerland	Franc	0.645415	0.730674	39.019500
Canada	Dollar	0.648114	0.733730	39.182600
Singapore	Dollar	0.503313	0.569801	30.428500
Australia	Dollar	0.584395	0.661594	35.330400
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.343133	2.652661	141.657400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.235551	0.266667	14.240600
Brunei	Dollar	0.501883	0.568182	30.342100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021218	0.024021	1.282800
UAE	Dirham	0.240502	0.272272	14.539900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.132100	60.456400
Argentina	Peso	0.318311	0.360360	19.243900
Brazil	Real	0.033974	0.038462	2.053900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134467	0.152230	8.129400
India	Rupee	0.019119	0.021645	1.155900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.232482	0.263193	14.055000
Mexico	New Peso	0.084190	0.095311	5.089800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.521868	0.590807	31.550300
Norway	Kroner	0.121205	0.137216	7.327600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015322	0.017346	0.926300
South Africa	Rand	0.115769	0.131062	6.999000
Korea	Won	0.000748	0.000847	0.045200
Sweden	Kroner	0.109285	0.123721	6.606900
Syria	Pound	0.021032	0.023810	1.271500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025790	0.029197	1.559200
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000554	0.000627	0.033500

DOTC backs expansion of nautical highway

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications is considering the adoption of a Japanese agency's proposal for the P56-billion expansion of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) over a 20-year period.

The project, dubbed "Master Plan for Strategic Development of the National Port System," was submitted by the Overseas Coastal Development Institute of Japan and endorsed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency to the Philippine government.

Under the proposal, the project would be funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Philippine government and foreign and local lenders.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a statement yesterday that the proposed project would cover the development of an international trunk line and container as well as local and municipal ports all over the country from 2004 to 2024.

At present, the SRNH roll-on, roll-off shipping lane covered only the country's eastern seaboard.

Points included in the roll-on, roll-off lane are Batangas City, Calapan and Roxas in Mindoro Oriental, Iloilo City, Caticlan and Boracay in Aklan, Bacolod City, Dumaguete in Negros Oriental, and Dapitan in Zamboanga del Norte.

The nautical highway was designed to move both goods and people faster between the country's islands.

To encourage potential investors to go into the roll-on, roll-off shipping business, the Development Bank of the Philippines has put up a P30-billion loan facility.

Mendoza said the SRNH expansion project would also complement the DOTC's existing port projects.

Last month, the DOTC turned over 12 completed and rehabilitated ports to their respective local government units.

Gov't sees higher US garments export quota

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY is expecting an additional 5- to 10-percent increase in its garments exports quota to the United States after recent talks between government officials and the US trade representative gave indications that Washington is willing to grant the Philippines' request for additional market access.

The country exports 32 million dozens of garments products to the United States, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's total garments exports.

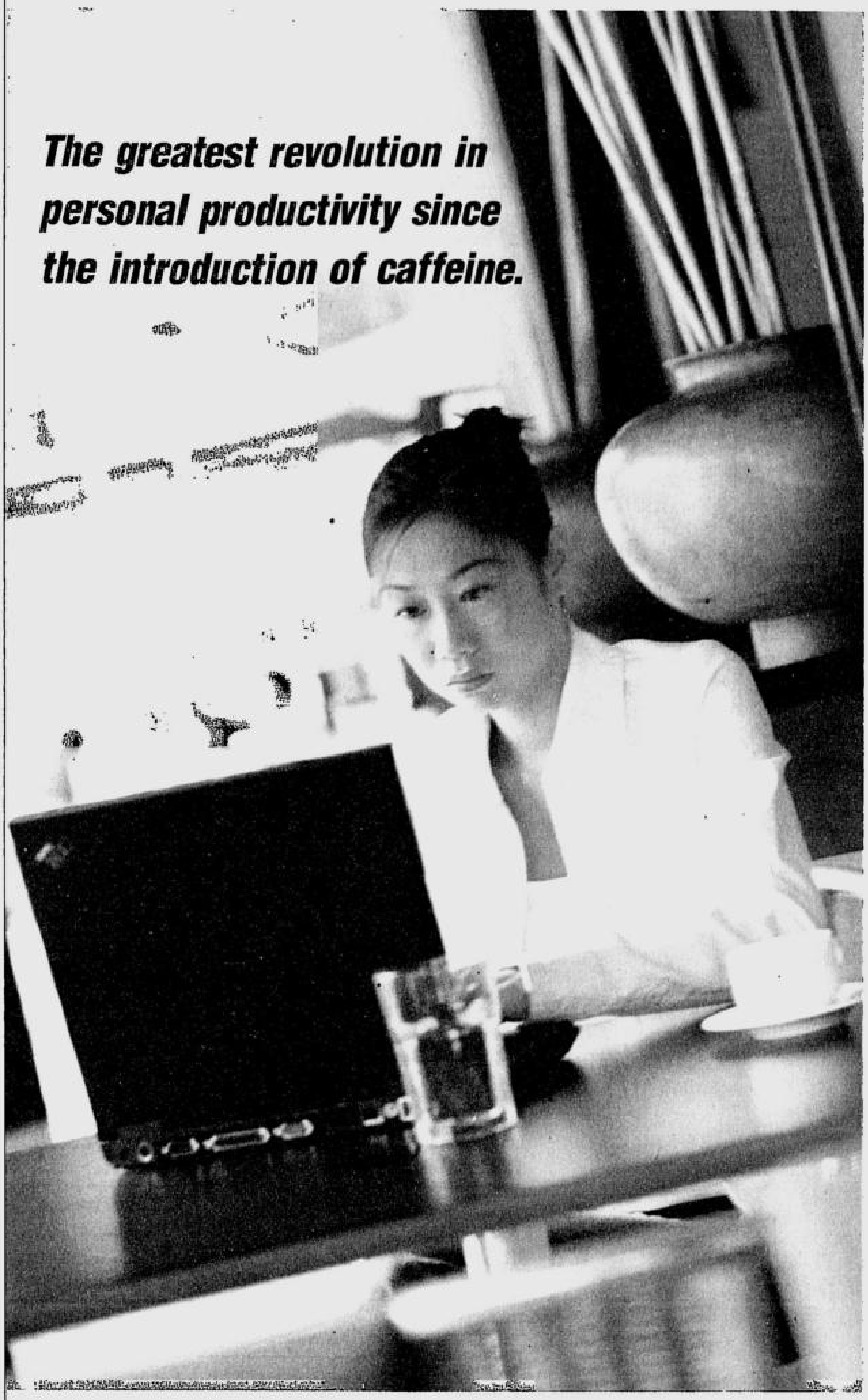
"We are working very closely with the private sector in continuing the negotiations (with the United States), and we expect to get the additional market access before the end of the year," said Serafin Juliano, executive director of the Garments and Textile Export Board, in a briefing.

The request for additional market access has been raised since the grant of a compensation package, which came in the form of additional quota for Philippine garments and textile exporters, lapsed in December of 2002.

The additional quota for Philippine garments that expired last year was granted after the United States imposed new rules on garments exports going to it, thereby affecting quotas of exporting countries, including that of the Philippines.

The government and the garments exporters are asking the US government to extend the grant until 2005, when quota for garments and textile exports will have to be abolished under the World Trade Organization rules.

Juliano said Philippine representatives would meet with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick in September to finalize the details of the ongoing negotiations on the country's request for additional market access.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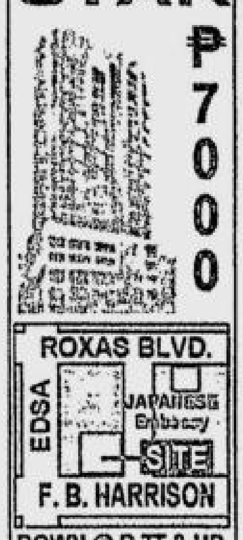

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

RENOVATION WORKS & COMPUTER HARDWARE

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting contractors/bidders to apply for eligibility & to bid for the following items:

1. * Renovation of the Information Technology and Management Group (ITMG) Office located at the Ground Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
    1.1 Contractor's Minimum Qualification:
    PCAB License : Category "B" (General Engineering/ Building)
    Registration & Classification : Medium "A" (Building)
    Track Record : With project completed amounting to P6.5 million or above in office interior renovation, electrical works, data and voice cabling.
    1.2 Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): P6,412,621.14
    1.3 Contract Duration : 150 calendar days to commence 3 days after signing of the Job Order or receipt of Notice to Proceed, whichever comes first
    1.4 Source of Funding : Capital Expenditures

*This is a re-publication.

2. Supply and delivery of thirty-seven (37) units branded PC Workstation and thirty-seven (37) units Epson TM-U590 Slip Printer
    2.1 Approved Budget for the Contract:
    - Lot 1 – 37 units branded PC Workstation – P2,035,000.00
    - Lot 2 – 37 units Epson TM-U590 Slip Printer – P1,702,000.00

    2.2 Contract Duration – Thirty (30) calendar days
    2.3 Source of Funding – Capital Expenditures – Branch Tellering Project

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City starting **July 10 to 25, 2003.** The eligibility requirements for item #1 will be issued upon presentation of original and valid licenses, size/range and kind of project issued by PCAB. Only the eligible bidders shall be required to pay a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 (item#1) and P1,000.00 (item#2) to cover the cost of the bidding documents/Request for Proposals (RFP). For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on **July 30, 2003** (item#1) and **July 31, 2003** (item#2).

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – July 10, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
Telefax : 633-93-42 • Direct Line : 631-96-40
Trunk Line : 632-13-61 locals 2007 / 2221

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

GSD 03-06-12

The Department of Education through the General Services Division is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Ground Maintenance of DepEd for 2003 – 2004. The approved budget for the contract is P2,340,000.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **July 7-21, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph.***

A pre-bid conference will be held on **July 21, 2003,** 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **August 4, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–July 5 & 10, 2003)

JOB Market

Visit any of the Inquirer Classified Ads branch and drop your resumés in our new

Resumé Box

We gather your resumés and forward them to companies with employment needs.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax 633-93-42
Direct Line 631-96-40
Trunk Line 632-13-61 locals 2007/2221

INVITATION TO REBID

NETRC 03-07-01

The Department of Education through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all security printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing and Delivery of the 2003 Diagnostic Test Booklets and Examiner's Handbook. The approved budget for the project is P7,500,000.00.

All interested security printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **July 7-18, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph.*** Bidders who had previously availed of the bidding documents can join the re-bidding but has to secure the new bidding documents.

A pre-bid conference will be held on July 11, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **July 25, 2003**, at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this re-invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI--July 5 & 10, 2003)

TransCo
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-08A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
DATE OF BIDDING : AUGUST 01, 2003; 2:00 PM			
A1	1 SET	THERMAL SCANNER	3PSMDS-03-035

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on July 17, 2003, 10:00 AM at SLT Bidding Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting **July 04, 2003.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/ execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
Chairman, BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI–July 10, 2003)

BCDA

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the privatization and development of the Villamor Gateway Center with an approximate area of 24.7 hectares

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that shall enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for ADP Phase 2 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 30 June 2003 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php10,000.00 payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 07 July 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property that form part of ADP Phase 2, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents shall be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 2 COMMITTEE (ADPCom-2)
BCDA Corporate Centre
Gozar cor. Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411

(Sgd.) CHAIRMAN
ADP Phase 2 Committee

(PDI–June 28, July 1 & 10, 2003)

Sterling for publishing and art hobbyists

STERLING, makers of quality paper products, launches another excellent product with its Specialty Papers.

More than just for the usual cards invitations and business correspondences, Sterling Specialty Papers can also be classified as paper arts, ideal for hobbies such as origami, paper structures, trimmings and decorations for bulletin boards and the likes, and other fine arts.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 50-MANILA

PROPMECH CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,

- versus - CIVIL CASE NO. 01-102051

VIVA SHIPPING LINES
COMPANY, INC., DOMINGO M.
REYES and RAMON REYES,
Defendants.
x - x

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, by virtue of a Writ of Execution issued in the above-entitled case by the HON. WILLIAM SIMON P. PERALTA, Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 50, on March 20, 2003, for the recovery of the following: (a) Four Million Two Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eleven Pesos and 100/19 (PhP. 4,299,911.19) representing the purchase price of the engines under the Sales Contract No. 97-1166, inclusive of the eighteen percent (18%) per annum interest as damages as provided for in the Sales Contract; (b) Four Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand Five Hundred Forty Three Pesos and One Centavo (PhP. 498,543.01) representing the remaining balance under Sales Contract No. 99-1287 inclusive of Twenty Four (24%) per annum as interest and penalties; (c) Eight Million One Hundred Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Six Pesos and Eighty Two Centavos (PhP. 8,112,906.82) representing the total amount due from the purchase of various machine and engine parts, inclusive of Twenty Four percent (24%) interest as stipulated in the sales invoices; (d) Amount equivalent to Twenty Five (25%) percent of the total amount due and payable as payment of attorney's fees and costs of collection as provided for in the contract of Sales; (e) Amount of Nine Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Nine Pesos and Twenty Two Centavos (PhP.986,439.22) representing the amount of the unpaid balance under Sales Contract Nos. 99-1285 and 99-1302; and (f) the costs of suit and all expenses incurred in the implementation of the said writ, etc., LEVY was made on November 8, 2001 by the undersigned Sheriff upon all the rights, interest, title and participation which the defendants VIVA SHIPPING LINES COMPANY, INC., DOMINGO M. REYES and RAMON REYES may have in the following real properties together with all improvements thereon, which are more particularly described as follows:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
NO. T-45901

A parcel of land (Lot 228-B-4 of the Subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-68834 being a portion of Lot 2228-B, (LRC) Cad. Rec. No. 213), situated in the Barrio of Cotta, City of Lucena, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the N1., points 2 to 5 by Lot 2244, Lucena Cadastre; on the SE., points 5 to 6 by Lot 2228-B-1; on the S., points 6 to 1 by Lot 2228-B-2; and on the W., points 1 to 2 by Lot 2228-B-3, all of the subdivision plan, beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being S. 78 deg.'08'E., 162.95 m. from B. B. B. M.5, City of Lucena; thence N. 3 deg. 05'wo point 23; thence S. 76 deg. 46' E., 5.40 m. to point 3; thence S. 81 deg. 42,78 m. to point 4; thence N. 86 deg. Oo' E., 58.46 m. to point 5; thence S. 37 deg. 26" W., 26.66 m. to point 6; thence S. 86 deg.55' W., 70.71 m. to the point of beginning; containing an area of One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Six (1,646), Square Meters, more or less.

And

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
NO. T-45941

A parcel of land (Lot 3 of the consolidation and subdivision plan, Pcs-04-002003, being a portion of the consolidation of Lots 2228-B-2 and 2228-B-3 (LRC) Psd-68834, L.R.C. Record No.), situated in the Barrio of Cotta, City of Lucena. Bounded on the SE., & S., along line 5-6 by Lot 2; along lines 6-7-8-9-10 by Lot 1; along line 10-11 by Lot 5; along line 11-12 by Lot 4 all of the consolidation and subdivision plan; on the N, along line 12-13 by Lot 2244 Cad-112, Lucena Cadastre; on the E., & N., along lines 13-14-1 by Lot 2228-B-4 (LRC) Psd-68834. Beginning at point marked 1 on plan, S. 82 deg., 38' E., 231.90 m. from B. L. B. M. No. 5, cad-112 Lucena Cadastre; thence 37 deg. 27' W., 11.05 m. thence N 3 deg. 09' W., 8.94 m. to 6; thence N. 3 deg. 09' W., 11.26 m. to point 7; thence S. 85 deg. 43' W., 4.01 m. to point 8; thence N. 2 deg. 55' W., 6.00 m. to point 11; thence N. 2 deg. 55' W., 62.00 m. to point 12; thence S. 76 deg. 46'E., 12.30 m. to point 13; thence S. 3 deg. 05' E., 25.88 m. to point 14; thence N. 86 deg. 55' E. 70.61 m. to the point of beginning containing an area of Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four (3,624) square meters. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground as follows: points 1,2,3,4, & 13-14 by old P.S. and the rest are P.S. cyl. Conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm; bearing true; date of original survey, July 1916-Dec. 1917, and that of the consolidation and subdivision survey, December 29, 1984, and was approved on January 14, 1985.

x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of said Writ of Execution and in accordance with the provision of Rule 68, Section 3, in relation to Rule 39, Section 18 of the New Rules of Court in the Philippines the undersigned Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 50, hereby announced that at exactly 10:00 o'clock in the morning but not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the 24th day of July, 2003 at the main entrance of Manila City Hall, facing Philippine Normal University (near the flagpole) the real properties described above will be sold at public auction for CASH and in PHILIPPINE CURRENCY to the highest bidder therefore to satisfy the judgment plus other necessary legal expenses.

Copies of this Sheriff's Notice of Sale will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a newspaper edited and of general circulation in the City of Manila and Lucena City once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks.

This Sheriff's Notice of Sale will be posted in three (3) public conspicuous places in the City of Manila/and Lucena City for the General Information of all who may be concerned.

Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the real properties above, and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Manila, Philippines, June 23, 2003.

(Sgd.) ENRIQUITO A. VIOLETA
Sheriff IV
RTC-Manila Branch 50

WARNING

It is absolutely prohibited to remove deface or destroy this sheriff's Notice of Sale on or before the date of sale. **UNDER PENALTY OF LAW.**

Copy Furnished:

ATTY. JOSE ANTONIO V. EVANGELISTA
Counsel for the Plaintiff
Sycip Salazar Hernandez and Gatmaitan
4th Floor, Sycip Law All Asia Building
105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

ATTY. JOSE AMOR M. AMORADO
Counsel for the defendants
3rd Floor, Prudential Life Building
P. Canlapan Street, Batangas City

PROPMECH CORPORATION
Marine Technology Center
Aduana cor. Arzobispo Sts.,
Intramuros, Manila

VIVA SHIPPING LINES COMPANY, INC.
DOMINGO M. REYES and RAMON REYES
Lucena City

(PDI – July 3 & 10, 2003)

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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2003

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig,
Metro Manila, 1632
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

IN MEMORY OF THE FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATE

MARCELO BRIONES FERNAN

25 OCTOBER 1927 – 11 JULY 1999

Holy Masses will be offered on Friday, 11 July 2003
in the following churches:

CEBU

Cebu Memorial Park	5:30 P.M.
Santo Rosario Church	6:30 A.M.
Redemptorist Church	7:00 A.M.
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral	7:30 A.M.
Basilica del Sto. Niño	8:00 A.M.
St. Therese of the Child Jesus	12:15 P.M.
Mabolo Parish Church	6:00 P.M.
Sacred Heart Parish Church	6:00 P.M.
Capitol Parish Church	6:15 P.M.

MANILA

St. John Bosco Parish	7:30 A.M.
Santuario de San Antonio	7:30 A.M.
Santuario de San Jose	6:00 P.M.
Christ the King Church	6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	6:00 P.M.
St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church	6:00 P.M.

BOGO, CEBU

San Vicente Parish Church	5:00 P.M.

Please join his family and friends in prayer for his eternal happiness.

JUDGE RICARDO G. BERNARDO, JR.

of Gapan and San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 7, 2003
at the age of 66.

He is survived by his wife **ALICIA ATENDIDO BERNARDO** and sister, **REBECCA BERNARDO** and brother-in-law **JOSEPH DE VILLA**.

His remains lie in state in SOLACE II, Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on 12 July 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

MR. RAFAEL TORRES SANTILLAN

of Brgy. 2, Julugan, Tanza, Cavite
Joined his Creator on 05 July 2003 at the age of 71
Interment is on 12 July 2003, 2 p.m. at Sta. Cruz Memorial Park
A. Soriano St., Tanza, Cavite

'FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN.'

Nofrando "Roy" Domingo

of Quezon City & Liliw, Laguna
Peacefully joined our Lord
and Savior on the
7th day of July 2003, at the age of 74.

He is survived by his wife **Sally**; children **Raymond and Ginia, Rowena & Dennis (†), Rose-Ann & Jerome, Jessica & Eugene**; grandchildren **Manuel, Francis, Phoebe, Isaac, Nathan, Ariel & Jared**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends.

His body lies in state at Chapel 12A (South Wing) La Funeraria Paz, 143 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, July 11, 2003 at the Funeraria Paz Crematorium after the 9:00 a.m. service.

LUZ P. BELTRAN

Of San Miguel, Bulacan
Peacefully joined our Lord on July 8, 2003
at the age of 90.

Her late husband **Nicanor** (†); loving children **Oscar** (†) and **Rebecca**; daughter-in-law **Gaudiosa** (†), son-in-law **Federico**; grandchildren **Mimotte** and **Bobby, Jun** and **Lani, Rissa** and **Ago, Triccie** and **Mon-Mon, Jet, Eggpie, Mao, J. Anne, Gio, Miji** and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., at Guadalupe, Makati City and will be transferred to San Miguel, Bulacan on July 11, 2003.

Interment will take place on Sunday, July 13, 2003 at San Miguel, Bulacan.

Gratefully we remember Nanay,

RUFINA DELA CRUZ VINOYA

on the 5th year of her return to God Who loved her so.
(September 18, 1918 – July 10, 1998)

Masses will be offered on July 10, 2003 at:

1. Most Holy Trinity Parish .... 5:45 a.m.
   (Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila) 6:30 a.m.
   6:30 p.m.
2. Queen of Apostles Sanctuary .... 6:15 a.m.
   (Daughters of St. Paul, F.B. Harrison, Pasay City)
3. University of Sto. Tomas Hospital Chapel .... 12:15 p.m.
   (España, Manila)
4. University of Sto. Tomas Hospital Chapel .... 6:30 a.m.
   (Clinical Division – Cor. Lacson-Dapitan Sts.)
5. Santissimo Rosario Parish Church .... 5:15 p.m.
   (UST Campus, España, Manila)

Husband Leon († Feb. 26, 2003), children Ariel & Purificacion, Sonia & Ernesto, Sr., Laura, Sr. Celia, O.P., Mario & Yolanda, Lydia & Jonny and Sr. Noemi, FSP and grandchildren Stephen, Paolo, Noel & Maricel, Carlo, Enrico Jose († Jan. 24, 2003), Ernesto, Jr., Spencer & Kristine Sofia and great-grandchildren Migs and Mika.

The Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolacion
announced the death of

SR. ANDREA T. DE LA PAZ, OSA

on July 8, 2003 at the age of 99.

Funeral Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. on July 11, 2003 at the La Consolacion Convent, 273 Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will follow at the La Loma Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICES

EDUARDO SARILE SAMANIEGO

Died on July 7, 2003
at the age of 44.

His body lies in state at Magallanes Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment today July 10, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

REV. FR. ROMEO ARBOLENTE DOMPOR 'BOY D'

Died on July 1, 2003

His remains lie in state at the Dompor residence #39 Hontanosas St., Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

Interment today, July 10, 2003 at Dampas Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Tagbilaran Cathedral.

REV. MSGR. JOSE C. ABRIOL

Died July 6, 2003 at the age of 85.

His remains now lie in state at Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila.

Interment today, at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

MABEL FLORENCE LINCALLO HODREAL

Died July 7, 2003 at the age of 41.

Her body lies in state at Jose Rizal Chapel - La Funeraria Paz, Sucat.

Interment tomorrow, July 11, 2003 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz - Sucat.

REMEDIOS LEBRON JOTA LARA

Died on July 8, 2003 at the age of 76.

Her body lies in state at Mt. Carmel Church, Doña J. Rodriguez Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on July 12, 2003 at La Loma Cemetery, Kalookan City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

WINDSOR ORTIZ REFUERZO

(February 4, 1937 – July 1, 2003)

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude to all those who expressed their sympathies at our time of bereavement.

Your presence, prayers and presents have afforded us solace and strength.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day." 2 Timothy 4:7-8a, NIV

BEATRIZ DOMINGO CRUZ

Retired Principal, Pangasinan National High School
Lingayen, Pangasinan

Beloved Teacher, Aunt, Grandaunt, Friend, Church and Community Leader died in the Grace of our Lord on July 7, 2003 at the age of 79.

Her nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and their families, request relatives, friends and kind readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at #32 Maniboc, Lingayen. Interment will be on Saturday, July 12, 2003 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at The Church of The Epiphany.

> "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."
>
> 1 Corinthians 2:9

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128 (0917) 434-9976
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City. Tels (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
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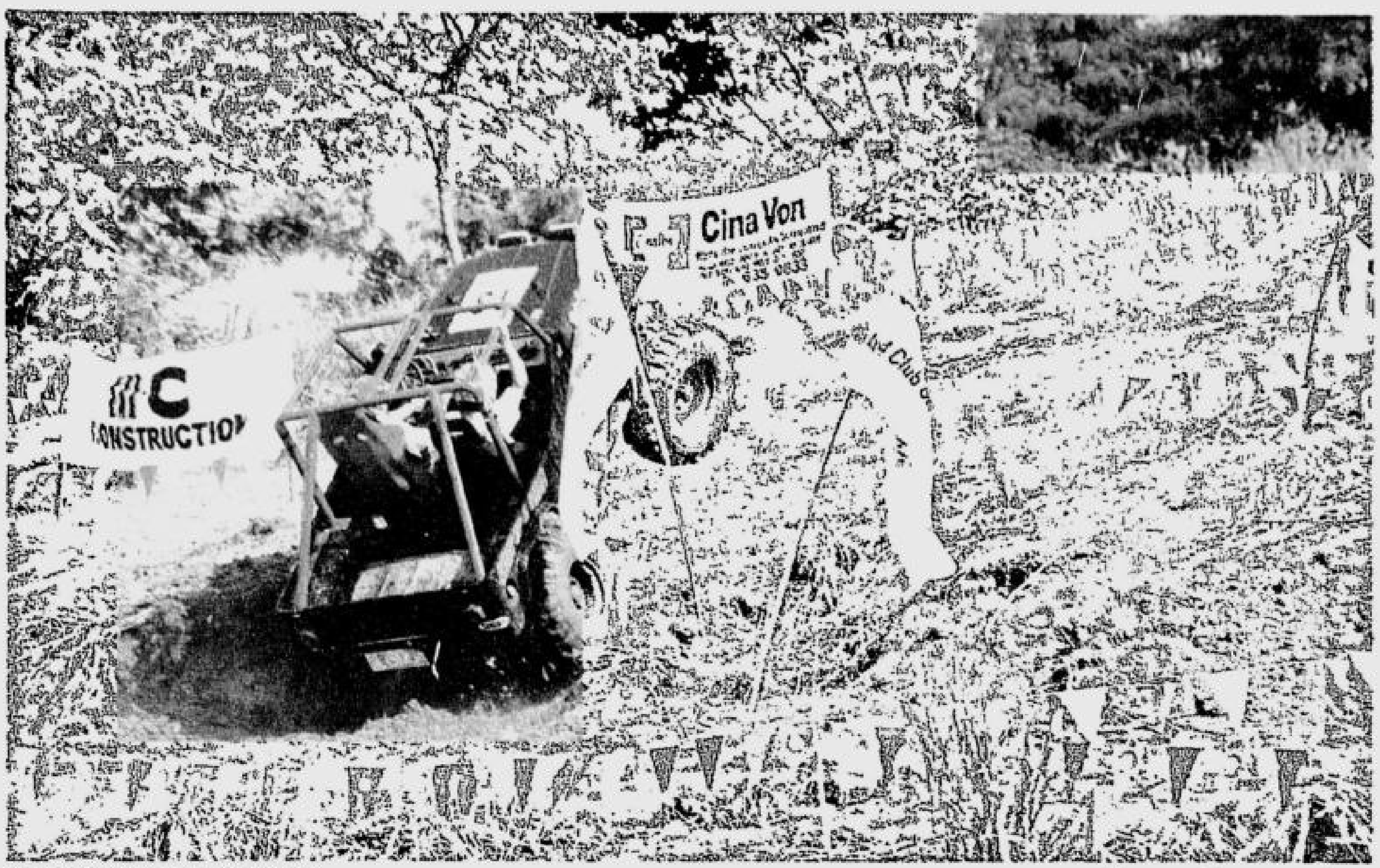

NO trail is too tough for this 4x4 skippered by Arthur Ascuna.

WITH HIS friend and navigator Ernie Leongson (left) at his side, Ascuna was able to finish the course in admirable pace.

Nothing's impossible for this paraplegic driver

By Charles E. Buban

FOR THIS 32-year-old former motocross rider, the desire and determination to compete once again is so strong that nothing could stop him from returning to race.

Even his paralysis from the waist down is not a deterrent.

Strapped on a black Toyota minicruiser and using hand controls, Arthur Ascuna became the first paraplegic to compete in a 4x4 race and perhaps in any motorsports race in the country.

"Considering my situation now, just being able to drive means so much and to return in a wheeled race is a dream that has finally come true," he said after the competition where he was among the top finishers.

Ascuna competed in the Open Class category of last Saturday's Shell Helix Suzuki 4x4 Challenge held at the Payanig sa Pasig grounds in Pasig City.

SHUT UP & RIDE!

DESPITE his limited mobility, Ascuna still found a way to engage in motorsports racing.

Fast-paced life

Ascuna's passion for speed is undeniable. When not competing in motocross racing, a sports he started joining at age 15, he was into jetski racing.

But his fast-paced life was cut short on the night of Nov. 8, 1999.

En route to meet his sponsor for his forthcoming jetski competition he unexpectedly passed out while riding his motorcycle.

"It must have been fatigue," Ascuna reminisced. "When I woke up, I'm already in the hospital and couldn't feel a thing from my waist down."

Ascuna injured his spine so badly that his doctor gave him a slim chance of being able to walk again.

Just speed bump

But for Ascuna what happened to him was just another speed bump in life as he promised himself to rise from his physical limitations and perhaps, even go back to the thing he loves most—racing.

It was quite disappointing that he can no longer ride a motorcycle but there will always be something to satisfy his desire for speed.

Last year he tried his hand on a quadbike, a four-wheeled all-terrain vehicle, and this gave him an idea to modify a full-size vehicle that can he can drive with his hands.

With the help of his buddy, motocross champion Ernie Leongson and another mechanic friend, Ascuna modified his Toyota Landcruiser so that it can accelerate using a throttle handle and brake using a lever. He had it lowered, too, so he could go in and out with ease.

"I got the idea in the Internet where contraptions are offered for paraplegic drivers," he recalled.

With the vehicle, he can now move around, even go to the malls.

Going off-road

But his resolve to race once again would eventually lead him to consider off-road competition, an entirely different discipline from motocross racing.

Modifying a minicruiser given to him by Leongson, he began training for the 4x4 Challenge, a race where one must complete a rough and tumble course at a shorter time.

Ascuna's first attempts at the minicruiser resulted in crashes as he couldn't keep the vehicle from tipping over.

"My hips, the portion of the body that senses balance while driving, no longer feels anything so I learned to balance using my eyes," he explained. "It's more like driving on a computer game."

Like a seasoned driver

When the day finally came, all eyes were fixed on Ascuna as he was lifted and strapped to his 4x4. Once he was flagged off, he zoomed through the muddy and rocky tracks, dived through ditches and climbed steep mounds with the confidence of a seasoned driver.

When he finally crossed the checkered flag, Ascuna was ecstatic for he finally completed his mission.

"He may not have topped his category but he certainly beat many guys out there with his faster time," exclaimed motocross champion Jolet Jao, who was among the crowd cheering for his friend.

For Ascuna this is just the beginning of finally coming back to motorsports racing.

"I guess I'm destined to compete," he said. "And what I can no longer operate with my legs I will do it with my hands and my heart."

Strapped on a black Toyota minicruiser and using hand controls, Arthur Ascuna became the first paraplegic to compete in a 4x4 race and perhaps in any motorsports race in the country

Toyota tops June sales anew

Vios posts strong sales in first month

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. has emerged once again as the best-selling automotive brand in the country by registering the highest sales output in June.

Based on the latest figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), Toyota remains on top with almost 30 percent market share by selling a total of 2,191 vehicles last month and gaining an increase of 7 percent from sales of the same month last year.

Its year-to-date total sales of 13,083 registered a growth of 12 percent from last year keeping the company on top of market sales. Toyota also registered the highest sales output in the passenger car category in June.

Taking second place to Toyota in market sales for June is Isuzu Philippines, with reported sales of 1,363 units and a market share of 19 percent. Mitsubishi Motors Philippines came in third with sales of 1,189 units, garnering 16.5 percent market share.

On a year-to-date basis, Honda Cars Philippines follows Toyota at the second spot with sales of 7,737 units for the year and an estimated 17 percent share of the market. Mitsubishi Motor Philippines is at the third position—an almost identical market share with Honda and sales of 7,620 units for 2003.

With the introduction of the new Vios to the market, Toyota further strengthened its supremacy in the passenger car category by selling a total of 1,029 units last month, holding an impressive 54 percent market share. The Altis continues to be the best-selling sedan in the country by lording it over its competitors with 386 units sold.

The Nissan Sentra ran second with car sales of 148 units in June while the Honda Civic holds third place with sales of 129 units.

On its first month in the Philippine market, the Vios, Toyota's newest entry in the sedan market, outsold its nearest competitor, the Honda City, by selling 332 units compared to Honda's new model that sold 213 units.

Toyota continues to hold its No. 1 position on the passenger car market this year by taking a strong 46 percent share with 4,268 units sold. Coming in second is Honda Cars Philippines by selling 1,487 units with 16 percent market share while Nissan Motor Philippines places third with an estimated 11 percent market share with reported sales of 982 units.

Toyota remains as the best-selling commercial vehicle maker in the country despite a slowdown in June.

Year-to-date sales show Toyota leading the pack with sales of 8,815 units from January to June of this year for more than 24 percent of the commercial vehicle market. Isuzu occupied the second place with almost 21 percent market share with 7,528 units sold and Mitsubishi which sold 6,639 units placed third with an estimated 18 percent market share.

The Toyota Revo, on the other hand, remains as the best-selling model in the country with total sales for the year reaching 6,631 units, comprising 18 percent of the CV market and almost 15 percent of the total automotive market sales.

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Scratching the surface of the City

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE NEW Honda City

HONDA makes it a point to be a "gear ahead" of competition. With the new Honda City, it jumps clear over the rest of its class. Its innovative 7-speed mode shifts in the "flick of the thumb." The ease in which this kind of technology is so accessible is relatively unheard of.

Honda caused a commotion when it introduced an entry level 1300 car with seven interpolations—a "streetcar named I-DSI"—packed with the second I-series engine after the I-VTEC.

The new City is being compared against Toyota's own new entry Vios. This, however, deserves another story. For now, we take a peek at the City.

Our brief rendezvous with the new City allowed us to experience the 7-speed mode. Knowing the Pinoy thumb's penchant for texting, the button gear control at the steering wheel looks and feels familiar.

'Split personality gear'

The gear features the "split personality" automatic transmission combined with options for manual transmission.

When does this happen? Once you shift the stick to the "S-gear" and push the 7-speed mode, then your thumb at the button gear shifts on either the left or the right side of the steering wheel. You can't lose control of the wheel during operation because your hands are firmly placed on the steering wheel all the time.

It just sounds more complicated than it looks. Think of it as merely "texting" your City's engine to do your bidding. A bonus is the sporty growl of the engine. Imagine if a 1300 is already this fun to drive, think how it would be like if the City were a 1600. The young market immediately comes to mind when we drove the new City.

Our brief rendezvous with the new City allowed us to experience the 7-speed mode

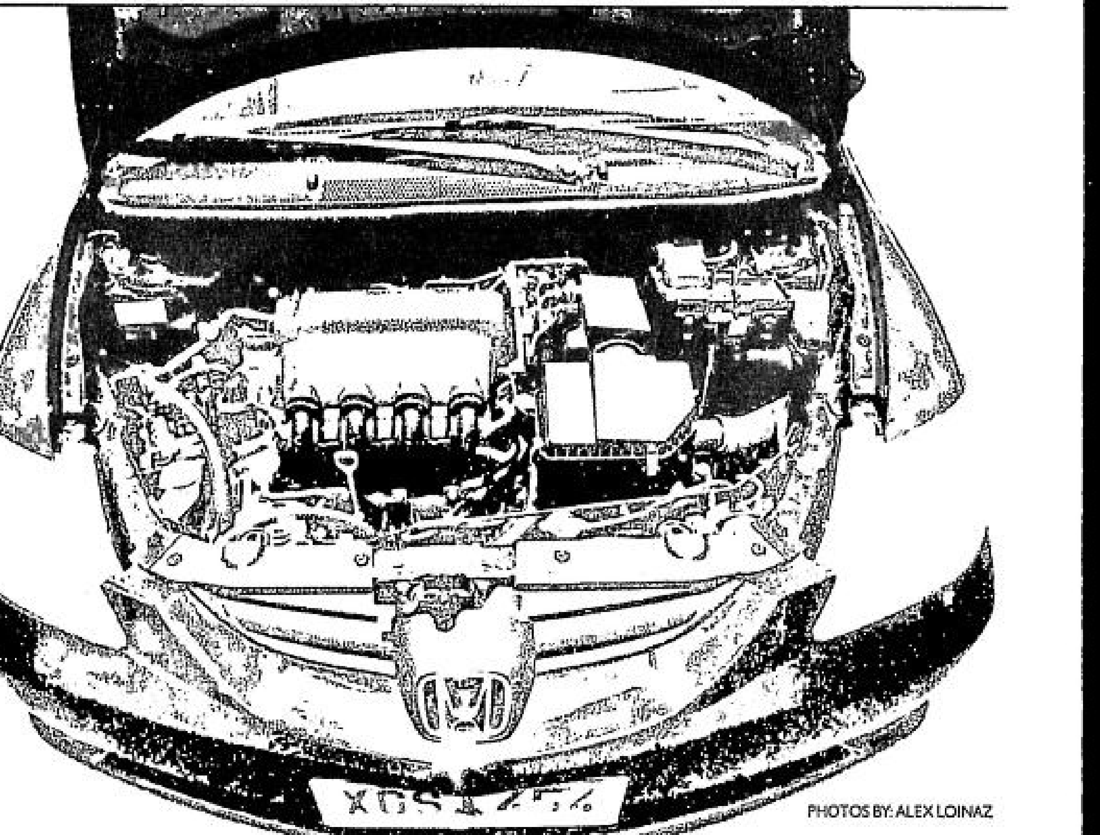
"Shift shock" was hardly felt, and the transmission allows for maximum range of fuel efficiency, a characteristic of a CVT (continuous variable timing).

No wrong gear

The CVT design ensures that with a manual shift embedded in its automatic transmission, novice drivers wouldn't be able to destroy the engine by staying too long or overrevving in low gears.

It is such kind of failsafe devices that have made Honda dare to put such new technologies as its VVTs (variable valve timing) into its cars for the young market. You can experiment and still the car comes out of such abuse purring contentedly.

SCRATCHING/B11



PHOTOS BY: ALEX LOINAZ

THE ENGINE looks solid and thorough, with twin spark plugs minimizing emissions and misfiring.

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Style and space in the new City

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE TRANSFORMATION of the Honda City is nothing short of stunning. Introduced in 1996 as Honda's entry-level Asian car, the first generation 1.3-liter City was unabashedly plain, spartan and boring. From 1998 to 2000, Honda gradually upgraded the City by installing a bigger, 1.5 liter powerplant and then a VTEC engine plus new gizmos. But it remained the Civic's poor cousin.

Until Nov. 12, 2002, that is, when the totally new 2003 City was unveiled in Bangkok. I happened to be in Bangkok at the time and The Nation, Thailand's English language daily, hailed the City as "a compact surprise …exceeding all customer expectations" as it amazed the industry with its snazzy styling, low price and unusual features such as i-DSI (intelligent Dual & Sequential Ignition), CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) and 7-speed Steermatic. No longer the Civic's poor cousin, the new City is more technologically advanced than the current Civic, yet it still costs less.

Sleek packaging

The first thing that strikes you about the City, which was launched in Manila last May, is its packaging: sleek, tastefully futuristic, defined by a snub nose, cabin-forward design and a longer rear overhang with built-in front and rear spoilers. Viewed from afar, the nighthawk black City that I test-drove appeared to me like a multifaceted black gem with its cutting-edge styling. The three-dimensional-lens headlights and cylinder-shaped combination taillights accentuate the dynamic look.

But even more impressive than the exterior packaging is the versatile roominess of the interior. Sharing the same platform as the Honda Jazz (known as Fit in Japan, where it was the best-selling car last year), the City was designed by people who thought out of the box and placed the fuel tank under the driver's seat instead of under the rear seats as usual. This made possible three cargo-carrying options or modes: the utility mode, whereby the rear backrest is folded down flat to extend flat cargo space by 1.8-2.0 meters from the trunk, which with its 500-liter capacity is already capacious and by the way 50 liters roomier than the current Civic.

In the long mode, the front passenger seat is reclined fully and half of the rear seat is folded down to allow the loading of long (2.6 meters) objects such as fishing rods or water skis. The third option is the tall mode, whereby the entire 60:40 rear seat is folded up to allow the loading of tall (1.2 meters high) items such as potted plants or a big dog. With all these space-expanding configurations possible in the City, who needs a minivan or station wagon?

Smooth and seamless

For the driver, the City's cockpit is elegantly simple with controls and instruments within sight and easy reach. The 7-speed CVT ensures smooth, seamless acceleration and Electric Power Steering makes driving the City as light as a breeze. By toggling buttons mounted on the steering wheel, the driver can switch to Steermatic or manual-style shifting in the S variant CVT.

The S variant loaned to me had moquette beige upholstery and although the Clarion in-dash CD tuner had only two loudspeakers in front, the audio system sounded fine. Power door locks, windows and door mirrors, dual front/rear cupholders, a dual glove box, front door and seatback pockets are standard. But the City does not have keyless entry, an anti-theft alarm system or automatic door locking.

Although the 1.5-liter City is produced in Thailand and exported to Japan (as the Fit Aria), Singapore and Malaysia, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) is importing only the 1.3-liter model for sale here. Was it because the 1.5-liter City Type Z was eating into the 1.5-liter Civic LXi's market share? On the other hand, Toyota is selling both the 1.3- and 1.5-liter models of the Vios, the City's rival in the entry-level subcompact market. HCPI is countering by offering dual airbags, anti-lock braking system (ABS), electronic brake force distribution (EBD) and brake assist in an optional package for S variant buyers. These safety options are not available to buyers of the Vios.

For downtown driving

The City's 1.3-liter, four-cylinder engine with eight valves and eight spark plugs can produce only 82 ps / 5,700 rpm max. But hey, sporty as it looks, this car was created for staid downtown driving, that's why it's called City. Fuel economy combined with higher (11.8 kgm/ 2,800 rpm max) torque in the low-to-mid speed range is a key feature, thus the lightweight, compact engine and i-DSI technology.

Despite its small engine, the City is sprightly, handles well, has strong brakes and provides a quiet, comfortable ride. It's only when you step on the gas to reach 100 km per hour that the engine gets noisy and seems to strain. The City is definitely not a sports sedan nor a grand touring car suited for high-speed driving to remote out-of-town destinations. But if you're looking for a budget car with plenty of style and space, consider the City.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

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IN MOTORCYCLES, what does "in-line four engine" mean?
—Jamir Pulmano of Los Baños, Laguna

WHETHER you're talking about cars or motorcycles, the term "in-line four" describes the engine basically the same way. The No. 4 refers to the number of cylinders. The term in-line refers to the engine layout; that is, the way the pistons are arranged inside the motor. An in-line or straight engine has all its cylinders arranged in a single row, which makes it distinct from, say, the V-type or the Boxer.

The way an engine is constructed contributes greatly to engine smoothness. But so does the number of cylinders. Generally, vibrations decrease with an increase in the number of cylinders.

In a one cylinder four-stroke engine, for example, you get rather jerky power delivery—only once every 720° rotation of the crankshaft. In contrast, an in-line four engine fires every 180°, showing how increasing the cylinders means more working cycles per crankshaft rotation and therefore a smoother power delivery.

Almost all economy cars have in-line four engines. As for motorcycles, it is today's engine choice for top horsepower, smoothness and top speed and is mostly found in the larger 500cc-sized capacities due to their complexity and the size of pistons required. Main disadvantages are lack of torque at lower rpm ranges and its smoothness, while very good, still does not measure up to the boxer style of engine.

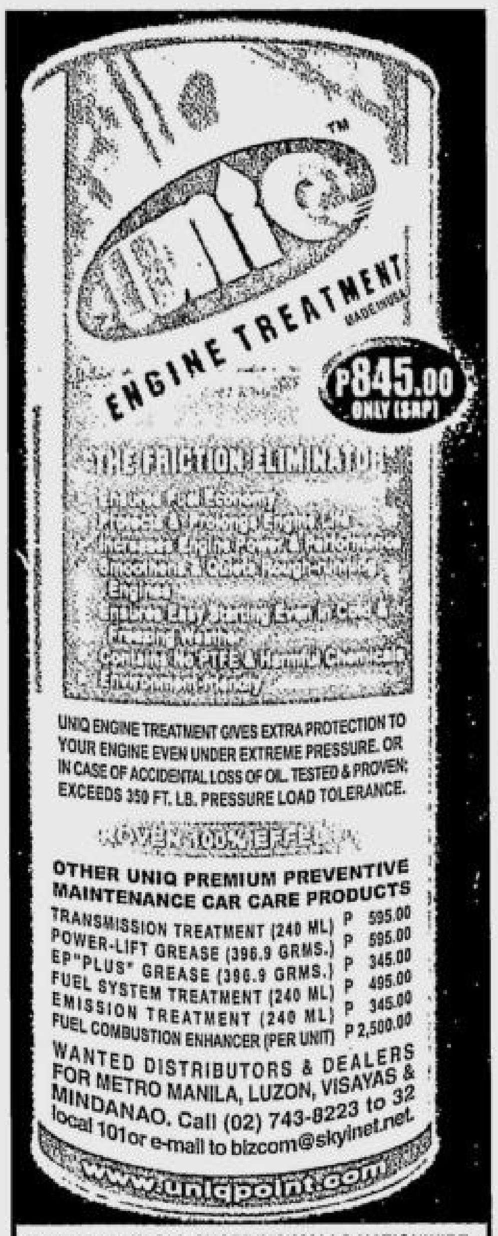
True Value signs up Uniq products

TRUE Value Hardware Corp. is now carrying Uniq premium preventive maintenance car care products in all of its stores nationwide. This was announced jointly by Edna Yu, True Value merchandising manager and Steve Te, vice president for marketing of Bizcom International Corp., local distributor of Uniq products.

True Value, known for its inventories of premium high quality imported products, considers Uniq products to be of high-quality automotive lubricants, chemicals and devices.

Among the Uniq products that are currently sold at True Value branches are the engine treatment, fuel system treatment, internal engine cleaner, emission treatment, transmission treatment, fuel combustion enhancer, EP plus grease and power lift grease.

Uniq premium preventive maintenance car care products are imported from the United States and are locally distributed by Uniqpoint Marketing.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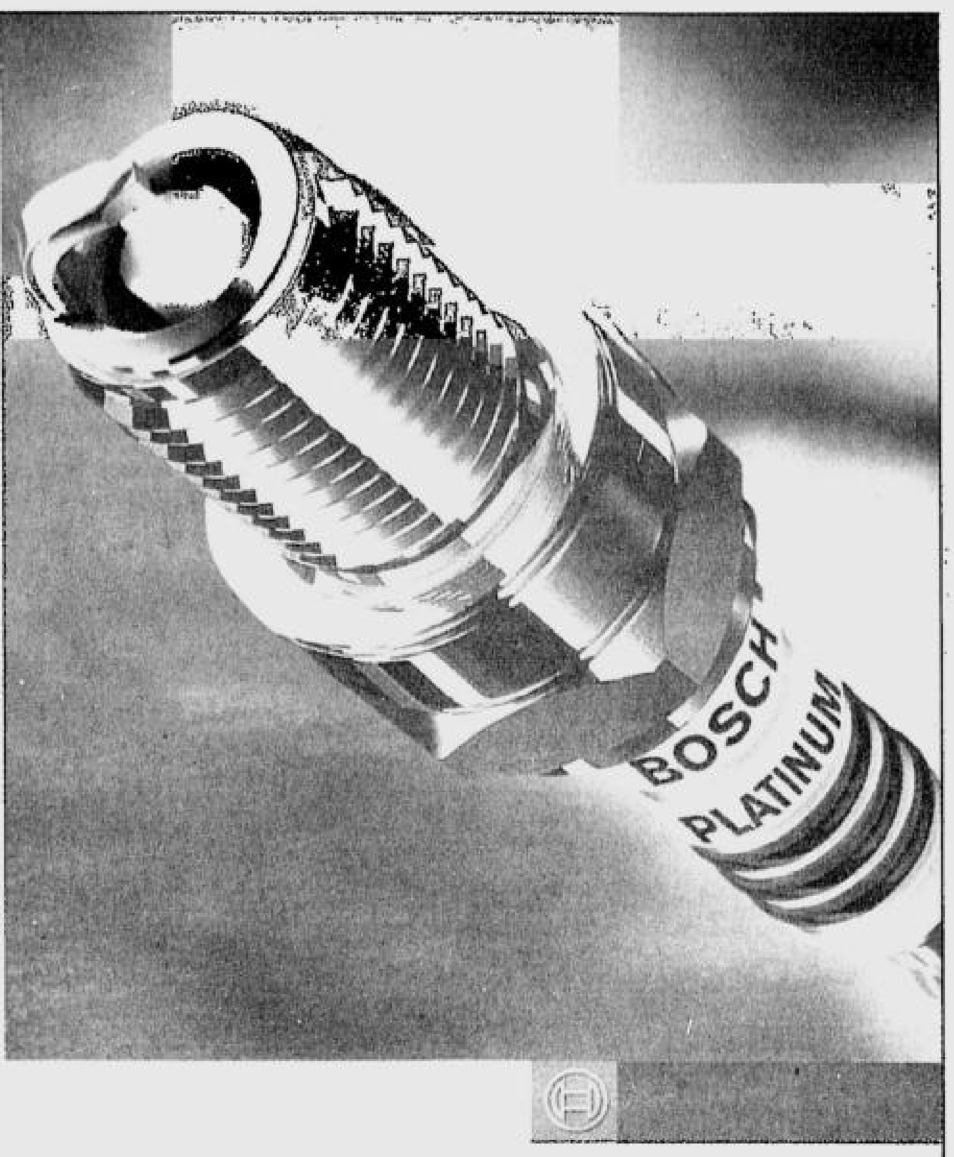

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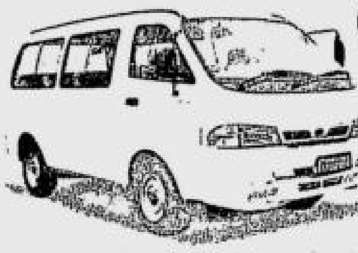

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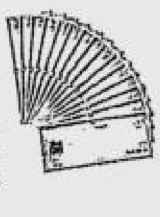

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50 Winners of KIA Gift Packs worth P1,000 each!

*for KC2700 Panoramic model w/o aircon

KC2700 Promo Mechanics

1. This raffle promo is open to all buyers of the KIA KC2700 (all variants) nationwide as follows:
   a. Financing buyers who have applied until September 19, 2003, get approved and make a downpayment until September 25, 2003 will be issued a raffle coupon.
   b. Cash buyers who made their full payment until the end of the promo period will be issued a raffle coupon.
2. Financing buyers may avail of the 20% to 50% downpayment from 12 to 60 months term; and 50% downpayment with 0% interest for 12 mos. term.
3. All financing applications are subject to bank approval.
4. The buyer should fill up all the entries on the raffle coupon and drop it at the dropbox located at the KIA dealership where he bought his KC2700 vehicle. Raffle coupons that were not completely filled up will be disqualified from the raffle.
5. Deadline of submission of entries is until the end of business hours of September 25, 2003.
6. The raffle draw will be held at KIA Motors, Phils., Km. 16 West Service Rd., Bicutan, Paranaque City on September 30, 2003.
7. The raffle prizes are as follows:
   Grand Prize - A choice of a Pregio RS van or a Rio HB(A/T)
   Second Prize - 2 Boracay Family Trips - 3 days/2nights accomodation for a family of 4, inclusive of airfares and baon of P10,000.00 (validity is 6 months from date of issue)
   Third Prize - 20 units of Nokia 3530 celfone kit (simpack with P100.00 load)
   Fourth Prize - 15 SM gift certificates worth P5,000.00 each (with 1 year validity)
   Consolation Prize - KIA premium items worth P1,000.00 each
8. Appropriate taxes will be borne by the grand and second prize winners. Registration requirements, insurance and other related documents shall be for the account of the grand prize winner. Second Prize is not transferrable but may be converted to cash.
9. All winners will be notified by registered mail and must present the original invoice of the vehicle purchased, one(1) valid ID and their winning coupon when claiming their prizes.
10. A customer can only win once; if a name is drawn more than once he/she gets the prize of higher value.
11. The name on the raffle coupon will be declared the winner.
12. Where to claim the prizes:
   a. Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at Communicon, Inc., 1841 Buenconsejo St. Guadalupe Nuevo, *Makati City* and look for Ms. Lei Mariano.
   b. Provincial winners will be assisted by the KIA dealership where they purchased their KIA KC2700. Communicon will send the 3rd prizes up to the consolation prizes directly to the winner. Winners of the grand and second prizes will have to claim their prizes at Communicon, Inc.
13. Winners may claim their prizes up to 60 days from the date of notification. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of KMP with the concurence of DTI.
14. All employees of KIA Motors, Phils. and its affiliate companies, suppliers, ad agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified in this promo.
15. This promo is available at all KIA dealers nationwide.
16. The promo period is from June 19, 2003 up to September 19, 2003.

**2 yrs / 50,000 kms. warranty on rear body Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1679, Series of 2003.

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KIA BALINTAWAK (SIGNET BALINTAWAK)
1240 EDSA, Balintawak, Q. C., Tels. 361-0544 •375-8019•330 6670
Makati Showroom: 2241 La Fuerza Plaza, Pasong Tamo St. Tels. 817-8406/16/17/21

KIA COMMONWEALTH (PRINCE MOTOR CORP.)
43 Commonwealth Avenue, Q. C.
Tels. 951-2201 to 16•453 9318 to 20

KIA QUIRINO AVE. (VELCOR AUTO HAUS, INC.)
1170-1180 Pres. Quirino Ave. Ext. Paco, Manila
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KIA MARIKINA (DELTA MOTOR SALES CORP.)
332 Sumulong Highway Brgy. San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal Tel. 682-8680 - 81

KIA NEW MANILA (WHEELS, INC.)
222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q. C. (near St. Luke's Hospital)
Tels. 721-8456•721-8465 •721-8448•4113406. Quezon Ave. Branch: 602 Quezon Ave., Q. C. Tels. 712-2923•712-2926•743 6707

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KIA DIPOLOG
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KIA ILOILO (KIA MOTORS Metro Iloilo)
Brgy. Tagbac (beside Metropolis) Jaro, Iloilo City
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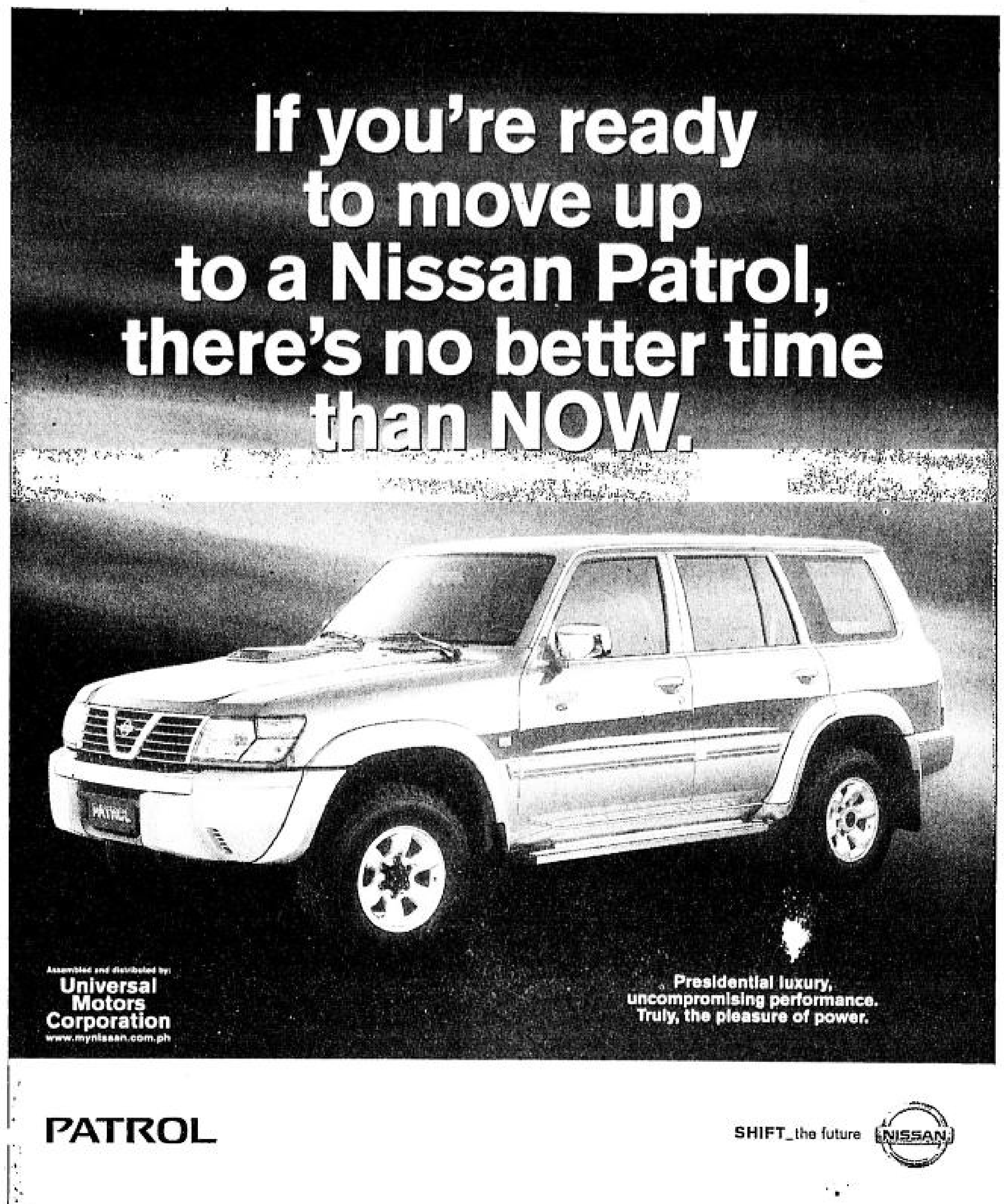
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Truck makers laud drive vs smuggling

THE TRUCK Manufacturers Association commends the ongoing anti-smuggling campaign of the Bureau of Customs led by Commissioner Antonio M. Bernardo, to stem the influx of misdeclared and undervalued vehicles into the local market. The recent seizure of 12 luxury vehicles, concealed among used tires and scooters, indicates renewed vigor within the Bureau to combat smuggling.

Said TMA president Elizabeth H. Lee in a media statement: "We are extremely pleased with and thankful for the concrete results achieved by the Bureau of Customs in recent weeks. An effective and sustained anti-smuggling campaign is critical to the long-term viability of the local automotive industry and will contribute significantly to the Macapagal administration's drive to generate more revenues for the government."

The local automotive industry has been struggling to regain its former market base, which peaked in 1996 with sales of more than 160,000 units. The sluggish Philippine market has averaged just over 80,000 units in the past five years, in stark contrast to its Asean counterparts which have largely fully rebounded.

TMA has been at the forefront of the industry's strong lobbying for the government to enforce stricter measures to arrest the unabated entry of smuggled vehicles that have decimated local sales in recent years.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order 156 in December 2002 strictly regulating the import of secondhand vehicles to address the concerns of the industry.

"With EO 156, the Macapagal administration has already manifested its commitment to eradicate the entrenched and rampant smuggling that has debilitated the industry and the economy," said Lee. "The vigorous and successful efforts of the bureau is a positive indication that the implementing agencies are serious in enforcing this administration's direction. We extend to Commissioner Bernardo and his men our congratulations."

Nissan redefines new Patrol

The Patrol, acclaimed for its presidential luxury and high performance, is the favored vehicle of dignitaries and noteworthy individuals

THE SPORTS utility vehicle, better known as the SUV, is the vehicle of choice of the prominent and illustrious set for quite a considerable time now.

The popularity of this type of vehicle with the upper crust has tremendously increased that SUVs may have even unwittingly relegated a number of luxury sedans from the highways to the carports of many posh homes because of the wealth of comfort and add-ons that sport utility vehicles provide.

Features such as a powerful engine, spacious and plush interiors and an imposing stature are but some of the amenities that have swayed the upscale vehicle owner in favor of these hulking and well-built creatures.

Favored vehicle

Leading this powerful pack is the Nissan Patrol. The Patrol, acclaimed for its presidential luxury and high performance, is the favored vehicle of dignitaries and noteworthy individuals. In fact, it is oftentimes seen commanding the streets with an entourage of police escorts and support vehicles or driven through the most exclusive of villages or most historical of occasions.

Universal Motors Corp., the authorized assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles, has once again set the bar for SUVs with its newest take on its distinguished beauty—the redefined Nissan Patrol.

THE NEW Patrol has a muscled front bumper with built-in fog lamps.

The new Nissan Patrol boasts of a more robust and authoritative stance with its bold radiator grille and updated Nissan emblem. Its muscled front bumper with built-in fog lamps and sleek rear bumper plus redesigned aluminum step board and mudguards render a stately yet sporty look to this urban sophisticate. While eye-catching multireflector headlights and taillights and dazzling combi lamps complete the Patrol's distinctive look.

Luxury amenities

This intimidating beauty is tailored with luxury amenities that will suit the taste of even the most discriminating of magnates.

Enhanced features such as an ergonomically designed 4-spoke steering wheel embellished with the new Nissan emblem complete with power-assist and tilt adjustment function and top-of-the-line 180 watts silver-faced stereo system with single in-dash CD player (or a 140 watts black-faced single in-dash CD player for M/T models) assure supreme ease and maneuverability.

For added driving comfort, the Patrol's driver seat is outfitted with a manually adjustable lumbar support with 8-way power adjustment while the front passenger seat is suited up with a 4-way power adjustment (for A/T models). Rear passenger seats can also easily slide and recline.

Safety implements

The class-leading Nissan Patrol is also equipped with an extensive list of safety implements such as a driver side SRS airbag, rigid side impact beams and the innovative Nissan Zone Body Concept impact-absorbing crushable zone to protect passengers in the event of a collision.

Power signal mirrors with red light indicators for optimum road visibility and a keyless remote entry with alarm equipped with the Nissan Anti-theft System (NATS) key also complement the Patrol's standard safety measures.

TOP of the line 180 watts silver-faced stereo system

But luxury, comfort and safety aren't the only reasons the Patrol is the benchmark when it comes to SUVs. The Nissan Patrol is also known for its exceptional strength and driving performance.

Power features

This intimidating beauty churns out a maximum torque of 354 Nm at 2,000 rpm with the revolutionary Neo-DI Turbo Diesel Engine and was awarded the energy conservation prize of Japan for its enhanced engine performance and reduced nitrogen oxide emissions.

Gasoline driven models on the other hand are furnished with an equally powerful 4.5L TB45E engine with Nissan ECCS (Electronic Concentrated Engine Control System) for extremely precise fuel injection.

Given all these, it's easy to see why the Nissan Patrol is the transport of choice of the crème de la crème. After all, with a demeanor and beauty so striking it is the ultimate display of power and strength.

The redefined Nissan Patrol is available in automatic and manual transmissions, diesel and gas models.

THE NISSAN Patrol is known for its exceptional strenght and driving performance.

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Hyundai Class on; locks save GTK

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IN SO SHORT a time, Hyundai has become the world's No. 7 automaker. Not a bad accomplishment, considering the keen competition among the more established car companies in America, Europe and Asia, particularly in Japan.

Hyundai is now in over 190 countries. In the Philippines alone where it is represented by Hari (Hyundai Asia Resources Inc.) Hyundai is best known for its all-time bestseller Starex van.

Recently, due to Hari's commitment to maintain a year-round special relations with its customers, it has extended its hugely popular Hyundai Class (Certified Legitimate After-Sales Service) up to Monday, July 14.

* * *

Hyundai owners can choose from among four service packages, all offering considerable discounts on genuine spare parts and labor.

Discounts include 25 percent on technical labor, 20 percent on brake pads and brake shoes, 5 percent on your choice of engine oil (mineral, semi synthetic and fully synthetic) and as much as 50 percent on oil filters.

Aware of the impact of increased prices once the Excise Tax Law is implemented, Hyundai has likewise offered special pressed-down prices on dreamers of the Hyundai Starex, the family van that has become as Pinoy as the jeepney in terms of popularity.

* * *

Hyundai's triple OOH (Outstanding Offers from Hyundai) financial package is being offered up to July 17.

With OOH, buyers can have the option to own Hyundai vehicles through low down payment, low monthly or zero-interest plans while cash buyers get an automatic P10,000 discount.

Both would-be buyers and present Starex owners can also opt to have their Starex fully loaded with a DVD/MP3 with 7" LCD monitor entertainment system. What a steal! Go visit one of the 13 Hyundai centers around the country.

I have driven the Starex several times. It performs well, is very roomy and comfortable. But what's really super about the Starex is it's not a gas-guzzler. In these hard times, every centavo saved amounts to a fortune at the end of the day.

* * *

One guy I admire is Alberto B. Arcilla, president and chief executive officer of Scandinavian Motors Corp. and Viking Cars Inc., which is the exclusive distributor of Volvo in the country. To him there are no little things; everything is big deal.

A lawyer, Albert seems to never allow a thing to go unnoticed; big or small, he always has a kind word for it. No wonder his leadership is marked by a constant patronage of illustrious people from the high and mighty in general and from the automotive industry in particular.

No wonder, too, that Volvo has maintained that air of respectability and prestige even amid the influx of highly sophisticated vehicles during the last few years.

Here's a glass to you, Albert.

* * *

A lesson to be learned on the recent failed murder of Go Teng Kok, GTK to his friends, is GTK's conscious effort to give premium on security at all times.

You know why GTK, the controversial president of the Philippine Amateur Track & Field Association, survived the slay try?

Because his car doors were locked when the gunman attacked.

* * *

GTK was behind the wheel of his Mitsubishi Adventure, waiting for the gate to be opened en route to the parking lot near his office, when an armed man barged from nowhere.

Gun in hand, the man tried to open the door of the driver's seat but fortunately for GTK, the door was locked. In desperation, the man fired at GTK three times, the bullets piercing the glass windows and two of them hitting GTK's cheeks before exiting through the glass windows of the door of the passenger side.

Luckily for GTK, he survived and is now recuperating from two operations. His tongue was grazed, jaw damaged and skull shattered a bit but otherwise, he is fine now.

* * *

GTK is considered controversial because he speaks his mind and does not mince his words when he exposes what he thinks are hanky-panky in sports. The softer side in him is he loves to extend help to those in need that, at times, he gets himself into hot water without his meaning to.

The police continue to stare at a blank wall but with Ate Glo expressing her wish for a speedy solution to the case, expect results to come up shortly.

Meanwhile, GTK, whether knowingly or unknowingly, has given us a grim reminder. You miss locking that door again the next time you board your vehicle and you are courting disaster, if not death.

* * *

By the sheer volume of vehicles passing through them, the roads both leading up North and down South have become so narrow that traffic snarls have become everyday occurrences there.

The rehabilitation of the North Diversion road is a positive step but what about the point between Mabalacat and Laoag? On unusual days like All Saints Day, Holy Week and the Christmas rush, vehicles pile up so easily at MacArthur Highway causing traffic jams that stretch for miles and miles. The same goes true at the South Expressway and beyond, between Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and Legazpi City.

Perhaps, it's time more roads are built to bypass the populous towns in Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan in the North and in similar populous town in Batangas, Laguna and Quezon in the South.

Ate Glo will score a big *"pogi"* point if she could start groundbreaking deeds for such projects before the campaign for the 2004 elections begins.

* * *

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FRONTIER

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Scratching the surface of the City

From page B8

Aerodynamic look

Others may find the new City's overall look unconventional, and look more favorably at the Vios, but our automotive and racing experts claim the City's egg or teardrop shape is the best for aerodynamics. The city is designed as such to minimize wind drag. But then, we must ask, why is the radio antenna stuck at the side and not at the rear center to minimize drag in this aspect?

One convincing proof the City was optimally designed to reduce wind drag was when we were driving at the Batangas Star Tollway at around 80 kph in heavy rain.

At this speed, the raindrops moved to the sides of the windshield. We didn't even use the wipers.

But the egg shape does have its "drag." For the City, at least, the windshield was a bit too low and the side windows too high.

Compact engine

The i-DSI engine exhibited a maximum torque 11.8 kg-m at a low 2,800 rpm, which Honda compares with torquey diesel engines.

Design wise, the engine looks solid and thorough, with twin spark plugs minimizing emissions and misfiring. It would also mean, however, additional maintenance costs for the owner. Two spark plugs per cylinder would add up to eight spark plugs, instead of the normal four plugs.

Because of the technologies involved, more smaller, fragile parts are involved in maintenance checks. When we showed what was under the hood to our mechanics, they all said engine works would be complicated. *"Mabusisi,"* they described it. You would have to remove a lot of stuff before retrieving the plugs.

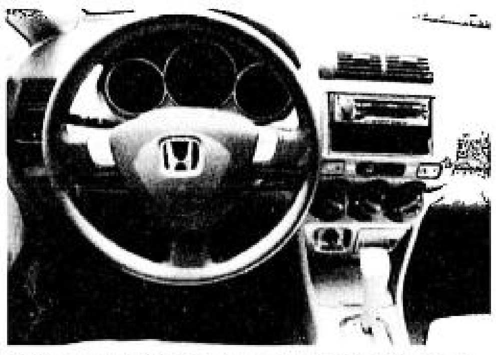
But this isn't saying the City's engine compartment is too tight. The same mechanics maintain the compartment is compact. You can stick your hand in there, they say, and be able to work your way inside.

Worth noting, as well, is the battery, which is so small but packs the amperes. We wonder, however, if this kind of battery would be readily available in car shops.

You would notice, likewise, how much the City's hood has shrunk. It looks like a cross between a flat-nosed van and an AUV. The engine, it seems, has become a next-door neighbor with the driver, and the designers have taken advantage of the entire length of the vehicle to be able to fit more passengers and carry more loads, and still maintain that sleek design.

Honda was able to reduce the City's engine weight by 7 percent, length by 20 percent and width by 8 percent compared to the previous Hyper 16-valve edition. The two-spark plug system combined with the sequential ignition control provides probably the best fuel efficiency of all four-cycle engines.

The sequential characteristic of the spark plug ignition varies depending on the rpm, speed and load of the engine. Aside from the fuel efficiency and power, the I-DSI allows a high compression ratio of 10:4:1 without causing engine knocking.



THE BUTTON gear control at the steering wheel looks and feels familiar to texters.

Prioritizing passenger comfort

The City's interior is one of the best that Honda has come out with. What really sets it apart is that it prioritizes passenger comfort, and comfort is what riding pleasure is all about. There were five of us in the City, three of whom were almost six footers. A three-hour trip proved ultra comfortable.

The dashboard has been ergonomically designed—everything is within reach. The trimming of the Honda is almost flawless, elegant and looked well thought of. In this respect, the City can beat the hell out of the Vios, which we saw recently had a "basic" interior.

The City doesn't have a temperature gauge, though; just an indicator that turns red when the engine already has overheated. So, we wouldn't know if the threat of an overheat was imminent. We would be driving more confidently if we saw the whole range of temperatures the City's engine was being subjected to.

The City's air-conditioning system also doesn't have a heater range. The fan is a bit noisy at the maximum level, perhaps because of the small air ducts. The side beams on the windshield are a bit too thick and somewhat interferes with our line of sight. And we couldn't find lumbar adjustments.

The back trunk has a whopping capacity of 500 liters. It's so huge even three small-built people can fit in. The back passenger seat, if you have seen the print ads, can be folded for additional trunk space.

Price range: The new City SRP-1.3 A-P539,000; 1.3 S M/T-P569,000; 1.3 S CVT=P609,000; 1.3 S m/T with SRS and airbags=P619,000; 1.3 S CVT with SRS and airbag P659,000.

Verdict:

The young would be proud of the 7-speed mode. The young-at-heart would marvel at the riding comfort. There's something for everyone in the all-new City.

What they say about the new City:

Passenger No. 1: "Why does it shift automatically when it's already in the manual mode? *Nanloloko 'to ah.* It's shifting by itself. 'It's not really on manual transmission."

Passenger No. 2: "You can't wreck the engine. That's interesting. As you approach the red line, it shifts automatically."

Passenger No. 3: "It doesn't look like a Honda. I love the look of the Vios because of its more sporty look. The City looks like anime. Like a toy. The City's interior looks elegant, though. The control knobs look classic, old-style, retro. I like that."

Passenger No. 4: "The City's styling doesn't look good outside. The Civic looks aggressive, angry, like a high-performance car."

Passenger No. 5: "This car looks like the one to give to your daughter, not your son. If you give it to your son, I'm sure the son would say, just buy me a Vios. This auto, if fitted with magwheels, would still look ugly."

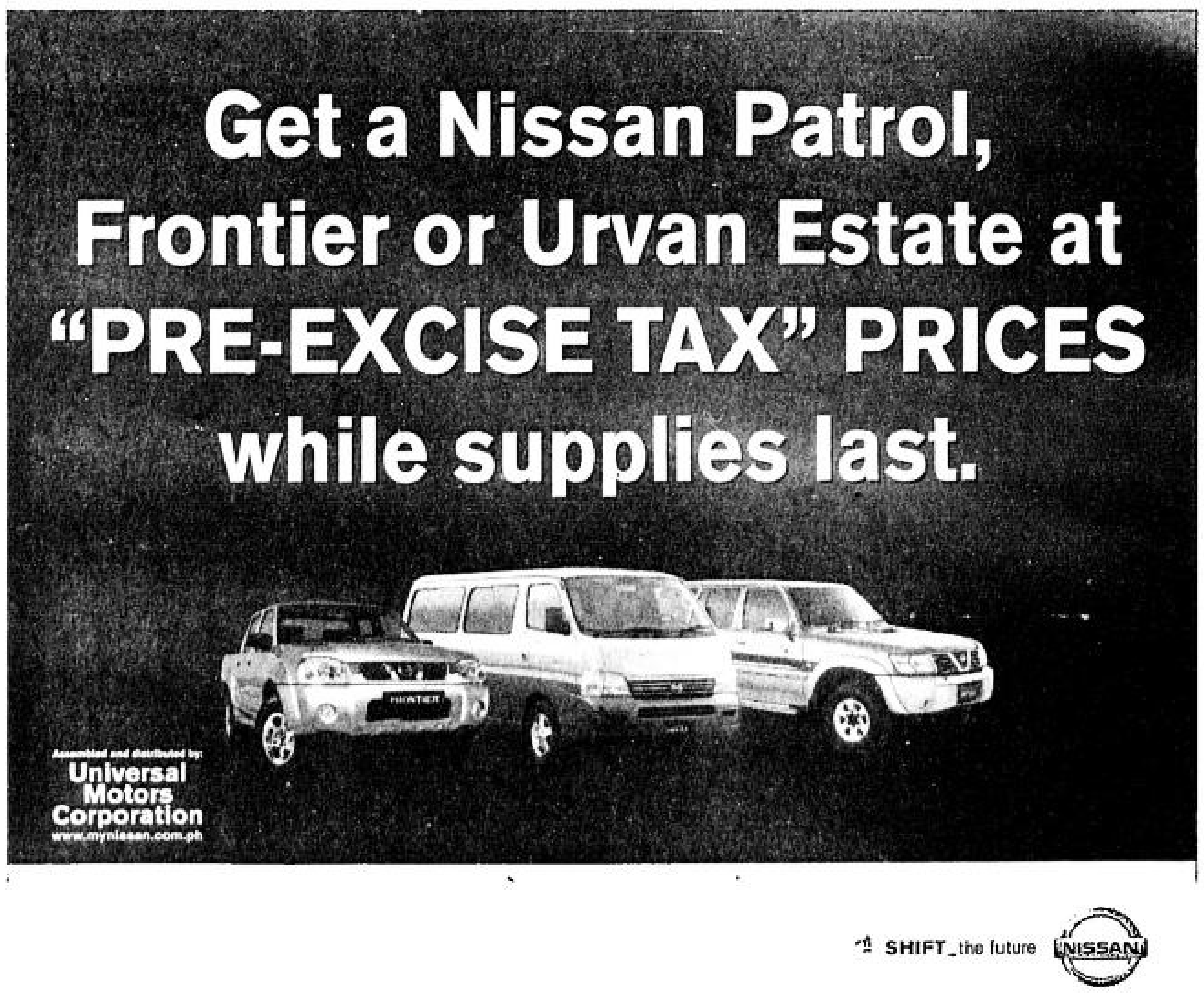
Passenger No. 6: "The legroom is enough."

Professional passenger No. 7: "It really stays on the power band all the time. Things are getting more and more advanced. This is nice, stable. You don't feel so much weight transfer in the front. It sort of evenly distributes the weight on both the front and the rear."

Passenger No. 8: "Very smooth shifting, but I don't like the looks that much. The back is like flattened, and that sort of turns me off."

Passenger No. 9: "I like the design. It looks a lot more expensive than it is. Nice interiors, but *madumihin lang ang beige."*

Passenger No. 10: "It's a completely different car. It would have been perfect if it were a 1600. But with 1300 it's already fun to drive.



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MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Durango takes a bolder, safer form

By Charles E. Buban

WE have all known the Dodge Durango as a uniquely styled midsize sport utility vehicle (SUV) that has seen slight changes over the years mostly in the esthetics department.

Yet it still gained quite a following, thanks to its distinct qualities that combine roominess and power of a full-size SUV with the maneuverability of smaller SUVs.

With the launch of the 2003 model last week, national marketing manager Porti Vencer of Norkis Automotive Resources Corp. (Durango's exclusive distributor here) introduced an even more advanced Durango model.

"A revised interior setting highlights some of the many changes on this highly capable SUV," said Vencer.

Perhaps the most important improvement of the SUV this year is not readily seen: as an added safety, the new Durango now comes with dual front airbags plus front and second-row curtain side airbags.

A fold-flat, hide-away third-row seat allows the new Durango to carry up to eight passengers—something large families will certainly appreciate.

The new Nissan Patrol: Redefined

THE sports utility vehicle, better known as the SUV, is the vehicle of choice of the prominent and illustrious set for quite a considerable time now. The popularity of this type of vehicle with the upper crust has tremendously increased that SUVs may have even unwittingly relegated a number of luxury sedans from the highways to the carports of many posh homes because of the wealth of comfort and add-ons that sport utility vehicles provide. Features such as a powerful engine, spacious and plush interiors and an imposing stature are but some of the amenities that have swayed the upscale vehicle owner in favor of these hulking and well-built creatures.

Leading this powerful pack is the Nissan Patrol. The Patrol, acclaimed for its presidential luxury and high-performance, is the favored vehicle of dignitaries and noteworthy individuals. In fact, it is oftentimes seen commanding the streets with an entourage of police escorts and support vehicles or driven through the most exclusive of villages or most historical of occasions.

Universal Motors Corporation, the authorized assembler and distributor of Nissan Light Commercial and Recreational Vehicles has once again set the bar for SUVs with its newest take on its distinguished beauty - the redefined Nissan Patrol.

The new Nissan Patrol boasts of a more robust and authoritative stance with its bold radiator grille and updated Nissan emblem. Its muscled front bumper with built-in foglamps and sleek rear bumper plus redesigned aluminum step board and mudguards render a stately yet sporty look to this urban sophisticate. While eye-catching multi-reflector headlights and tail lights and dazzling combi lamps complete the Patrol's distinctive look.

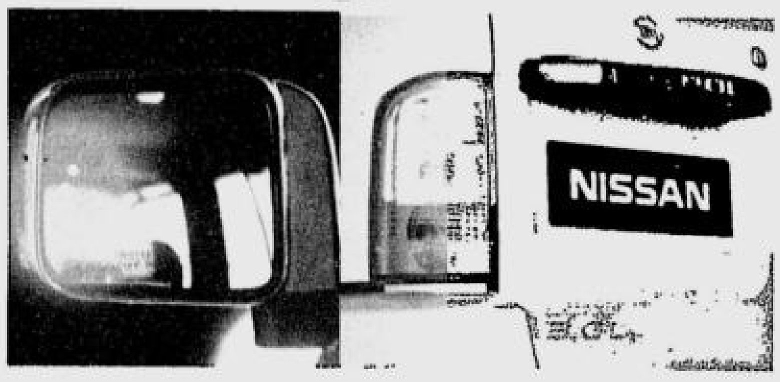
This intimidating beauty is tailored with luxury amenities that will suit the taste of even the most discriminating of magnates. Enhanced features such as an ergonomically designed 4-spoke steering wheel embellished with the new Nissan emblem complete with power-assist and tilt adjustment function and top-of-the-line 180 watts silver-faced stereo system with single in-dash CD player (or a 140 watts black-faced single in dash-CD player for M/T models) assure supreme ease and maneuverability. For added driving comfort, the Patrol's driver seat is outfitted with a manually adjustable lumbar support with 8-way power adjustment while the front passenger seat is suited up with a 4-way power adjustment (for A/T models). Rear passenger seats can also easily slide and recline.

The class-leading Nissan Patrol is also equipped with an extensive list of safety implements such as a driver SRS airbag, rigid side impact beams and the innovative Nissan Zone Body Concept impact-absorbing crushable zone to protect passengers in the event of a collision. Power signal mirrors with red light indicators for optimum road visibility and a keyless remote entry with alarm equipped with the Nissan Anti-theft System (NATS) key also complement the Patrol's standard safety measures.

But luxury, comfort and safety aren't the only reasons why the Patrol is the benchmark when it comes to SUVs. The Nissan Patrol is also known for its exception strength and driving performance. This intimidating beauty churns out a maximum torque of 354Nm at 2,000rpm with the revolutionary Neo-DI Turbo Diesel Engine and was awarded the energy conservation prize of Japan for its enhanced engine performance and reduced Nitrogen Oxide emissions. Gasoline driven models on the other hand are furnished with an equally powerful 4.5L TB45E engine with Nissan ECCS (Electronic Concetrated Engine control System) for extremely precise fuel injection.

Given all these, it's easy to see why the Nissan Patrol is the transport of choice of the crème de la crème. After all, with a demeanor and beauty so striking it is the ultimate display of power and strength.

The redefined Nissan Patrol is available in automatic and manual transmissions, diesel and gas models.



NISSAN
PATROL

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kindly move out of the way.

Never has intimidation been this inviting to look at. Piercing new multireflector headlights on a badder, bolder face. A re-engineered bumper with integrated foglamps. Plus power signal lights on the side mirrors, chrome alloy wheels and a sleekness destined to draw more envious stares per kilometer.

The New Nissan Patrol. Redefined.
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PATROL

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

If they're not available in grocery stores, try the specialty shops or through mail order

Seeking spike seasoning and other special ingredients

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

I HAVE encountered one recipe which requires spike seasoning for a baby back ribs dish. I have looked in most specialty stores such as Santi's and they haven't heard of such a seasoning. Is it true that it is available only in the US? What is spike seasoning made of? Is there any available equivalent among local brands?

GERALDINE MONTES, M.D.

Spike seasoning is made of "defatted nutrisoy granules, granular toasted onion, nutritional yeast, granular garlic, celery root granules, ground dill, horseradish granules, mustard powder, lemon peels, orange powder, parsley flakes, red bell peppers, green bell peppers, white cate pepper, rose hips powder, summer savory, mushroom powder, safflower, parsley powder, white onion powder, spinach powder, tomato powder, sweet Hungarian paprika, ground celery seed, cayenne pepper, ground turmeric, ground cumin, ground ginger, ground coriander, ground fenugreek, ground cloves, cinnamon powder, plus a delightful herbal bouquet of the best Greek oregano, French tarragon, French sweet basil, French marjoram, French rosemary and Spanish thyme."

It is not available in the Philippines, and it's not easy to source in America either. It is usually found in specialty food stores or through mail order.

However, a decent substitute would consist of a mixture of the ingredients above. You need not put all of them, but try to include as much of the herbs and spices that are locally available.

Start heating up the coals and grilling those baby back ribs!

I appreciate the recipes you publish. The thing is, I sometimes find it hard to look for ingredients like mirin, sherry wine for cooking, French beans, saffron, shiitake mushrooms, etc. Is there a store in Manila where I can go to buy these items?

GREG CANLAS

Here is a list of places I go to where these ingredients are readily available.

- Thai, Asian ingredients and chocolates—Chef's Nook, 220 Pilar St., Addition Hills, Mandaluyong, 7245812, 6378002 or 2418555
- Japanese ingredients—Sakura Trading, 123 Anson's Arcade Makati, 8151274
- Fresh and hard-to-find vegetables and herbs—Lolita's Vegetables, Farmer's Market Cubao, 9112567
- Spanish ingredients—La Tienda, Polaris Street, Makati, 8951651
- Delicatessen—my top three favorites: Santi's, Terry's and Gourmand

1. Santi's in Forbes, 8941293; Greenhills, 7226274; Ortigas, 6388969; Timog, 9250672
2. Terry's on Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati 7297906
3. Gourmand, which used be in Alabang is reopening at the Fort Net One building in August. Meantime you can order your ingredi-

SEEKING/ C3

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	FEEDBACK HUDYAT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	STREETLIFE AFTER 8/ICE BOX	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	M-PEOPLE HEADWORKZ	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	SERSIDE CRO MAGNON	BLAKDYAK ALL FRIDAY'S OF JULY
BIÑAN ☎(049)511.7268	ICE KENDI MR.ROXY	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	FU FLAVA RHYTHM ACE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	TONEWORKS BRIDGES	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	ENIGMA	NO ENTRANCE FEE

JULY 10 THURSDAY

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Rustan's

MAKATI • ALABANG • ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA

MARVIN Agustin and Kristine Hermosa are serenaded by the *cumbacheros.*

IT'S all in the family—the Villavicencios at the blessing and inauguration of the newly renovated Kamayan restaurant in Padre Faura: (from left) Tina, Veejay, Mara, Cara and Bokie

WELCOMING Sen. Loren Legara are Tootsie Marco and Carissa Coscolluela.

Best of three restaurants in just one buffet

THE 23-YEAR-OLD Kamayan restaurant on Padre Faura gets a makeover, giving it new, spacious and elegant interiors.

One open modern space seamlessly integrates the Kamayan, Dads and Saisaki buffets in a new dining concept. Tagged as the Dads Ultimate Buffet, it showcases the best Kamayan, Dads and Saisaki have to offer. Buffets cost only P395 for lunch and P495 for dinner.

The regular Kamayan buffet now comes with unlimited servings of the classic *lechon de leche* and grilled specialties. Diners can order favorites like *sisig*, *pusit sinulog*, salmon belly and sizzling *mangingisda* at the Kamayan buffet counter.

The renovated Kamayan restaurant now has a seating capacity of 400. Areas can be easily sectioned off using Japanese-style dividers for privacy during functions and parties.

Guests during Kamayan's re-opening were Senators Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda and former Education Secretary Raul Roco. Broadcaster Mike Enriquez, "Coffee Talk" host Cheri Mercado, actors Kristine Hermosa and Marvin Agustin, and Philippine Basketball Association players Dwight Lago and Nick Velasco also graced the event. Other guests were PR man George Balagtas, Jude Echauz, Standard Insurance Company president; Subic Bay Metropolitan Administration director Budjie Cosculluela, Boy King Cuneta, Teddy and Bibing Villanueva, Vince Chua, and officers and members of the Zonta Club of Makati-Ayala and Rotary Club of San Lorenzo Village, Makati.

Owners VicVic and Maridel Villavicencio, with their children Veejay, Pia, Cara, Mara, Bokie, who are now managing directors, and the youngest, Vicky; vice chair Tootsie Marco, executive vice president Anna Baltazar-Narvasa, senior vice president Nana Villavicencio-Deramas, who is currently managing the Manila outlets, and lawyer Jose and Violeta Baltazar welcomed the guests.

The restaurant is at 523 Padre Faura, Manila. Call 528-1724 to 25.

RESTAURANT magnate VicVic Villavicencio and Jude Echauz, president of Standard Insurance Co.

RAUL Roco flanked by Veejay and VicVic Villavicencio, Nonie Basilio and Maridel Villavicencio

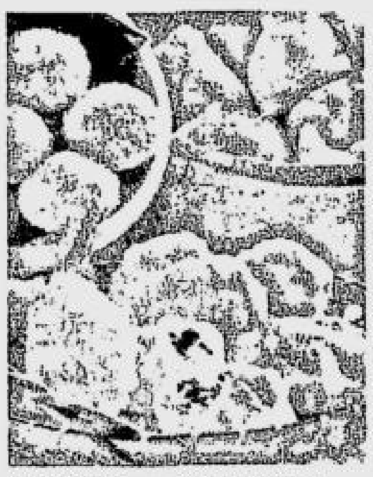
A 'casa' full of tapas

DINING OUT

CASA Armas recently introduced more tapas. Four are seafood-based, one belongs to Verdura (vegetable) tapas and two have salmon as stars. The new Casa Armas Tapas Bar is located at the 3/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 757-4961 and 757-4996.

PACIFIC Wharf Restaurant offers Pacific Baked Oysters, calamari rings, Pacific Dory fillet, Seafood Paella, Baby Back Ribs, Southwest Chicken, Malaysian Style Squid, Bourbon Chops and Mango Crêpe. The restaurant is located at Tomas Morato Street, QC and Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati).

PACIFIC Wharf's Baby Back Ribs



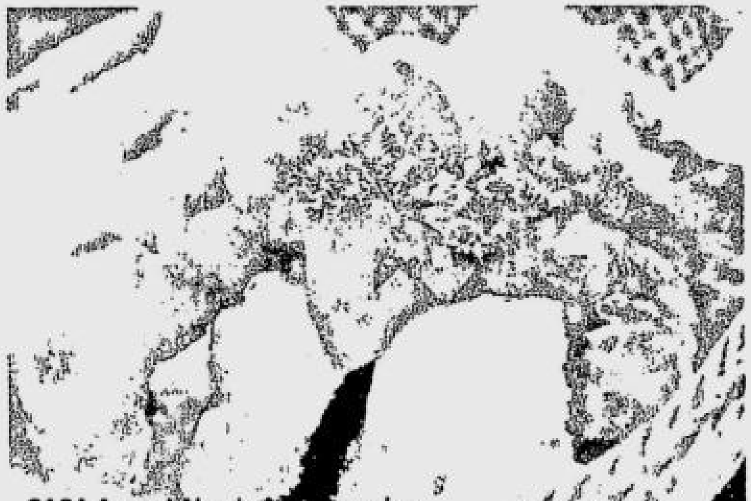
MAKATI Shangri-La's Shang Palace offers an all-new dim sum selection.

DI Mark's offers pizzas, appetizers, soups, pasta, main dishes and desserts. Juices, beer and cocktail drinks are also available at the resto bar in Greenbelt 3, Makati.

AZZURRO Bistro features Salmon Nicoise with capers, olives, potato and green vegetables, and poached quail eggs and orange pomelo as dressing; Panna Cotta, topped with chunks of pears pan-fried in butter; and Margret de Canard, peppered pan-fried duck breasts served on creamed spinach with roasted garlic, button mushrooms and smoked barbecue sauce.

MAKATI Shangri-la's Shang Palace offers new dim sum creations like Steamed Abalone Mushroom with Parsley Dumpling, Fried Prawns Stuffed with Taro, Steamed Abalone Dumpling, and Steamed Fan Guo. These are available for lunch until July 31. Call 840-0884.

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila's Restaurant Riviera presents an array of Mediterranean, Continental and Asian cuisines. A seafood bar, pasta and salad stations can also be found at the restaurant. Call 854-8888.



CASA Armas' Alcachofas [illegible] ozadas al Batido de Cerveza (deep-fried hearts of artichoke in beer batter)

MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Pavilion Court features Hotpot Specials until July 27, 12 nn-3 p.m. and 6:30-10:30 p.m. Specialties includes Sliced Beef Tenderloin, Shredded Porkloin, Flower Squid, Bean Curd, Abalone Mushrooms, Glass Noodles and Vegetables. Call 526-1212.

AZZURRO'S new dish Salmon Nicoise

LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL DISH FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION?

HAM HAS THE WOW FACTOR

It's your parents' anniversary. Or maybe Kuya's graduation. Your little girl's 7th birthday. Time to mark another milestone in your family's life. But are you tired of serving the same old party dishes? If you want to try something different, but want to make sure people will enjoy what you serve, why not serve a Christmas ham like Purefoods Fiesta Ham, even when it isn't Christmas?

"Why not?" counters Helene Z. Pontejos of the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, "when people serve Purefoods Fiesta Ham during other special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries or despedidas, their guests get really excited. It's really a pleasant surprise."

Many housewives who buy Fiesta Ham during non-holiday seasons say that they like the convenience of it. After all, you just bake it and glaze it---and voila, you've got a centerpiece dish that everyone likes. Because Fiesta Ham has so many fond memories associated with it, it lends an extra festive air to other special celebrations.

For children's parties, why not serve ham roll-ups or fancy mini sandwiches using colored breads (this you can order ahead from the neighborhood baker). Or you can lay the ham slices on tortilla bread and roll it up, slice it and you have ham roll-ups. Cut up Fiesta Ham into a star or other fancy shapes using a cookie cutter and these become nutritious pick-me-ups for the children.

It's unexpected, it's not traditional. But when your guests come to your table at the next special occasion, and their eyes light up when they see an old favorite even when it isn't Christmas, you'll be glad you served Purefoods Fiesta Ham.

Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary!

PUREFOODS
Fiesta Cooked Ham
Spread the magic of Christmas at every celebration.

Seeking spike seasoning and other special ingredients

From page C1

ents through 8454909 and 8438768.

- Supermarkets—Rustan's and Unimart
- Hair and makeup—Oh well, got a little carried away!

There is a cake, actually more like a pudding, in Australia, that I really love. I tried doing it from a recipe I found on the Internet and I was not successful. It's called sticky date pudding with caramel sauce or sometimes butterscotch sauce. It's so yummy, *la-lo na* if served warm with vanilla ice cream on the side. The good thing about this cake is it's not too sweet. You can adjust the sweetness by adding more sauce. I hope you can come up with a version of this cake.

MITCH

It's always a great pleasure to hear from you. For sharing your food-filled memories with me (in another letter), I am gifting you with my Date Pudding recipe.

Date pudding is really more English than Australian. As the story goes, all English desserts are called pudding and all puddings are therefore English!

Got this recipe from Helen, a school mate of mine. An English woman from Bath used to make it for us on weekends, and it's exceptional.

I hope this is the one you've been craving for. If not, I sure hope it comes close. You must bake it at once and let me know how it turned out. Better still, bake some and send it over. I'll be waiting!

Date Pudding

Cake:
1 3/4 c dates, chopped fine
2 c water
1 ½ tsp baking soda
2 c all-purpose flour
½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
1/3 c butter, softened
1 c granulated sugar
5 eggs

Sauce:
1 c butter
1 ½ c packed light brown sugar
2 c heavy cream
½ tsp vanilla
Vanilla ice cream

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter and flour an 8-inch square baking pan. Simmer dates in water, until soft. Remove pan from heat and stir in baking soda. Let mixture stand 20 minutes. Sift dry ingredients together.

In a mixer, beat together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add flour in batches, beating after each addition until just combined. Add date mixture and, with a wooden spoon, stir batter until well combined. Pour batter into baking pan and set pan in a larger baking pan. Add enough hot water to larger pan to reach halfway up sides of smaller pan and bake in middle of oven for 30-40 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean.

Sauce: In a saucepan melt butter and add brown sugar. Bring mixture to a boil and stir in cream and vanilla. Simmer until thick.

Serve pudding and sauce warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

I would like to seek your opinion regarding an ingredient called the active dry yeast, which, I've noticed, has become unavailable in grocery stores. I use this in my cinnamon roll recipe. What is the actual purpose of this ingredient and, if not currently available, what is a possible alternative? How important is it to the recipe? And where can I source it or its alternative?

KATHY CRISOL

I, too, have noticed that yeast has become quite scarce lately. I don't really know why. I saw some in Chef's Nook not too many moons ago.

However, you can call Mary Kaw of Peotraco. She gave me yeast to try and it's real good. I was very happy with it. It's called Aladdin. My honey brown sugar is from her as well. (She also sells torches, the ones used to caramelize sugar for Crème Brulee. They are inexpensive and efficient.) Ms. Kaw's contact number is 365-8281 and 242-2885.

And since you asked for it, here's Yeast 101.

Yeast, a microorganism, is described as "the oldest plant cultivated by man." It serves as a catalyst in the process of fermentation, which is essential in the making of bread.

The types and strains of yeast are numerous. However, "Saccharomyces cerevisiae" is the type most commonly used in making bread.

Research shows that modern-day bread-making techniques originated in Egypt. Still, the art of bread-making, though present throughout human history, was never truly developed until 1676, when Anton Leewenhoek developed the first microscope.

In 1859, Louis Pasteur first discovered how yeast works:

- Yeast feeds on the starches in flour, producing carbon dioxide.
- Carbon dioxide expands the gluten proteins in the flour.
- The gluten proteins cause the dough to expand and rise.

Thanks for writing. Your cinnamon roll recipe will follow, so keep reading Kitchen Rescue.

For those who've requested for my cooking class schedules, it is posted elsewhere in this section.

For questions, comments and suggestions, e-mail the author at reggie1@skyinet.net

Seminars on starting a food business

WANT to start your own canteen, catering business, or restaurant?

At The Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center's one-day special courses, you will learn the ropes of starting either a small-scale or a medium-sized food business.

Here are Maya's schedule of classes held every Saturday:

July 12, 9 a.m-5 p.m.

Bakery and Bakeshop: Covers commercial methods in preparing breads, pies and cakes, including costing and production batching.

Restaurant Operations: Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, etc.

July 16-18, 1:30-5 p.m.

Baking I (Basic)

July 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Chinese Dimsum: Learn how to make favorite Chinese fare like siopao, cuapao, steamed and fried dumplings, siomai, kikiam and almond jelly.

July 19, 1:30-5 p.m.

Pulutan dishes: Preparing *gambas*, baked *tahong*, tuna balls, *kinilaw na tangigue* with *gata*, pork *sisig*, chicken feet, *nilasing na hipon*, calamares and mushroom in garlic.

July 10-11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Certificate Courses with Hands-On for Adults, such as the Cooking II class, Comprehensive Cooking for Career Cooks, and Cooking I course for Messmen, Stewards and Beginners.

Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday to Saturday) at the 8/F, Liberty Building, A Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 892-1185/5011 local 108. E-mail at mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph

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Stainless steel water pitcher 24g
Stainless steel gravy boat
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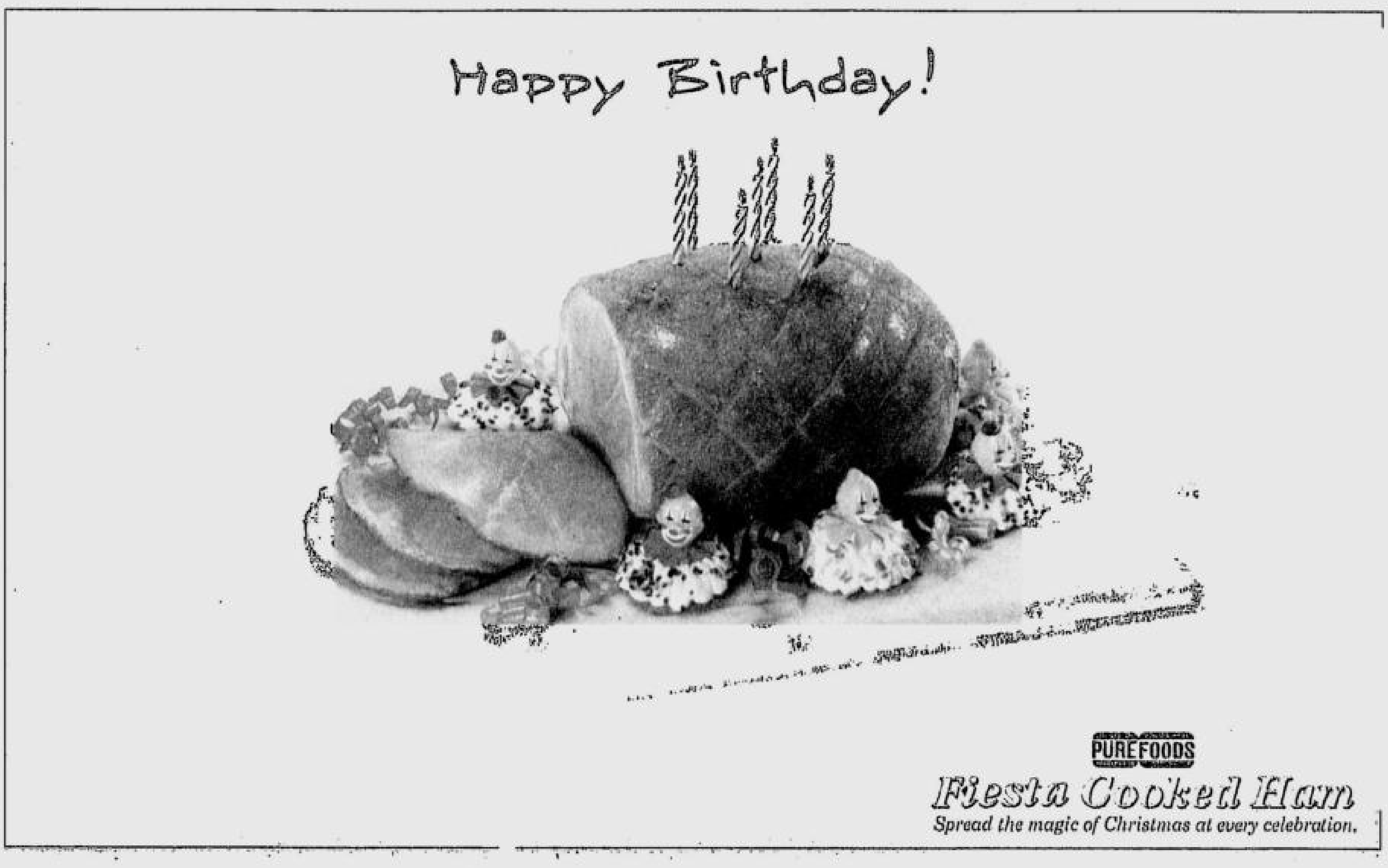
PARTY PLANNING IDEAS
HAM IT UP!

Tired of serving the same old party dishes like kaldereta, mechado and galantina? Are your celebration menus becoming predictable? Then maybe it's time to surprise everyone by serving something people only expect during Christmas---Purefoods Fiesta Ham. It's a centerpiece dish that never fails to bring a smile to every Filipino's lips, calling to mind fond memories of *noche buena* at Lola's house.

According to Helene Z. Pontejos of the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, "People write us to ask where they can buy Fiesta Ham even when it isn't the Christmas season, then they're surprised when we tell them that's actually available all year round". Ms. Pontejos says that Purefoods Fiesta Ham goes well with many different dishes, so it's not hard to plan a menu around it. "Birthdays, anniversaries, name it...it's *bagay*", says Ms. Pontejos. She says Fiesta Ham is especially appreciated in parties where there are balikbayans or people leaving the country, because it's the taste of home.

But is there any other way to serve Fiesta Ham aside from the usual baked whole ham? "Of course!" replies Ms. Pontejos. For merienda get-togethers, she suggests a sandwich bar, where you can serve sliced Fiesta Ham with pugon pan de sal and kesong puti slices where guests are free to do their own sandwich. You can also serve it with different types of sauces on the side, like honey mustard, applesauce or a berry-type sauce.

It's unexpected, it's not traditional. But when your guests come to your table at the next special occasion, and their eyes light up when they see an old favorite even when it isn't Christmas, you'll be glad you served Purefoods Fiesta Ham.


Happy Birthday!
PUREFOODS
Fiesta Cooked Ham
Spread the magic of Christmas at every celebration.

Hooray for leftovers!

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

IN OUR KITCHEN, we follow a simple rule: Once a week we concoct a "*halo-halo* special."

No, I am not referring to the colorful medley of sweetened fruits with crushed ice and *leche flan*. Still guessing? Okay, once a week my cook and I would raid the refrigerator and recycle everything into either fried rice or a pasta or a stew.

Whatever cannot be recycled is given to the pets as a reprieve from their usual dog food.

This practice has worked in our kitchen for ages. This way, leftovers will be given a new life instead of ending up cold, hard and inedible.

The usual *adobo* leftover, for instance, can be recycled into trendy *adobo* flakes, or *adobo* with boiled pasta and toasted garlic, or *adobo* fried rice.

The simple *nilagang baka* can be made more interesting by transforming it into *pochero* within the week. Even leftover sautéed vegetables can be used to make *pancit bihon*.

Give leftovers a chance, and you'll be amazed at the different ways to recycle them into dishes your family will truly enjoy.

Adobo Flakes

½ kg chicken thighs or ½ kg pork cubes (*kasim* or *pigue*)
1/3 c native vinegar (*sukang paombong*)
3 tbsp soy sauce
½ c water
2 tbsp pounded garlic
1 pc bay leaf (laurel)
2 tbsp white sugar
½ tsp coarsely ground black pepper
oil for frying

To prepare the *adobo*, combine the chicken or pork in a saucepan with the following ingredients: vinegar, soy sauce, water, garlic, bay leaf, sugar and black pepper. Allow to boil over medium heat and then simmer until tender. Add more water if necessary. Allow to cool completely and then shred into very thin pieces.

Deep-fry the shredded *adobo* until golden brown.

> Recycle dishes from meals past and waste neither food nor money in these hard times

Pochero

Leftover *nilagang baka*
2 ½ c beef broth from the *nilagang baka*
2 c peeled and cubed sweet potatoes (*camote*)
2 c *saba* bananas, peeled and sliced diagonally into 1-inch thick pieces
½ c oil
1 head garlic, minced
1 c sliced onions
4 pcs *chorizo de* Bilbao, sliced diagonally
400 g tomato sauce
salt and pepper to taste
1 tsp Spanish paprika (pimenton)
8 pcs Chinese *pechay* leaves, sliced into 2-inch lengths
2 c Baguio beans, cut into 2-inch lengths
½ c canned garbanzos, drained and skinned

Boil the *camote* and the bananas in water until tender. Drain and set aside.

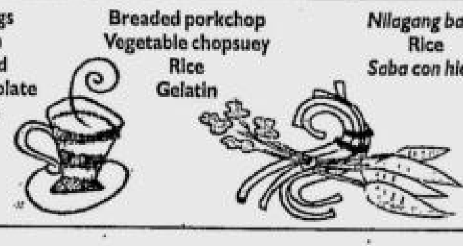
Sauté the garlic in oil. Add the onions and the *chorizo*. Sauté until the onions are done. Add the leftover beef cubes, tomato sauce, beef broth and seasonings.

Allow to boil and then add the *pechay* and Baguio beans. Simmer until vegetables are done. Add the boiled *camote*, bananas and garbanzos. Continue to cook for 5 more minutes.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City. Call 721-7735.

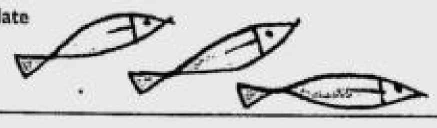
MONDAY

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Soft boiled eggs Crispy bacon Toasted bread Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	Breaded porkchop Vegetable chopsuey Rice Gelatin	*Nilagang baka* Rice *Saba con hielo*



TUESDAY

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Oatmeal Vienna sausage Pan de sal Butter and cheddar cheese Coffee or hot chocolate Guyabano	*Pesang maya maya* Rice Store-bought *maja blanca*	Chicken *adobo* Canned *laing* Rice Fruit cocktail with ice

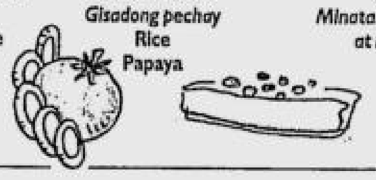


WEDNESDAY

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Cereal and milk Bread Coco jam, fruit jam and butter Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea	*Pancit bihon* Pork steak Ice cream	Instant chicken noodle soup Pochero Rice *Rambutan* and bananas

THURSDAY

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Adobo flakes Salted eggs and tomatoes Rice Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	Fried fish with sweet and sour sauce *Gisadong pechay* Rice Papaya	Chicken *afritada* Rice *Minatamis na saba at langka*



FRIDAY

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Omelet with cheese and ham Toasted bread Coffee or hot chocolate Atis	*Sinigang na baboy* Rice *Mais con hielo* with cornflakes	Baked macaroni Fried chicken popcorn Apple pie ala mode

SATURDAY

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Waffles with butter and maple syrup Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea	Sukiyaki Vegetable tempura Rice Gelatin	Instant crab and corn soup Fish fillet *escabeche* Rice Almond jelly with lychees

SUNDAY

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Tocino Fried egg Garlic rice Coffee or hot chocolate Papaya with *calamansi*	Clear soup Menudo Rice *Crema de fruta*	Tossed green salad with Thousand Island dressing Paella *Crispy pata* *Leche flan*

Cooking it up with caviar and pâté

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts cooking class schedule is as follows:

July 11—All New Barbecues and Side Dishes: Churrasco Steaks with Onion Rings (Brazilian Steaks), Baby Back Ribs with two sauces (honey barbecue and delicious beer barbecue sauce) with Creamed Corn Parmesan, Guava Chicken Barbecue with Cilantro Rice, Lamb Chops in Mango Sauce with Fruit Fried Rice

July 14—Living It Up! This class is highly recommended: Caviar Cake, Caviar with flavored Blinis, Gravlax (sweet cured salmon), Duck Liver Pâté, Chicken Liver Pâté with Figs, Ox-tail Pâté, Toasts and Points. Wine and champagne pairing.

July 16, morning class—Nonya Cuisine 101: Pong Tauhu Soup, Chye Tik Kway (Steamed Carrot Cake), Har Cheong Gai (Shrimp Paste Fried Chicken) with Salted Fish Rice, Yam Rice (Hokkien Nonya Paella), Kueh Pisang (Banana Pudding); afternoon class—Vietnamese 101: Vietnamese Spring Rolls (fried and fresh), Vietnamese Stir Fried Crabs, Vietnamese Style Mixed Barbecue (beef, chicken, lamb, seafood and dipping sauces), Vietnamese Fried Rice, Fruits in Syrup Vietnamese Style

July 18—Traditional Binalot (complete meals cooked in banana leaves). This class is highly recommended: Fried Pork and Adobo Flakes with Chicharon Chips and Salted Egg Relish, Ginataang Sugpo at Gabi with Bagoong Rice, Tilapia with Shrimp Paste Roasted Tomatoes and Caramelized Onions and Talaba Rice, Nilagang Tadyang na Baka with Pandan Rice and Bean Sprout Salad, Bulalo Steak with Fried Bulalo Rice and Mushroom Gravy with Spring Vegetables

Monday and Friday classes start at 9 a.m., Wednesdays at 9 a.m.-12 nn (morning class) and 1:30-4:30 p.m. (afternoon class).

Prior reservation is appreciated. Call 928-9296, 927-3008 or 633-5162.

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is located at the 3/F Bon Appetit, Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong.

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LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL DISH FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION?

PINOYS CELEBRATE WITH FIESTA HAM

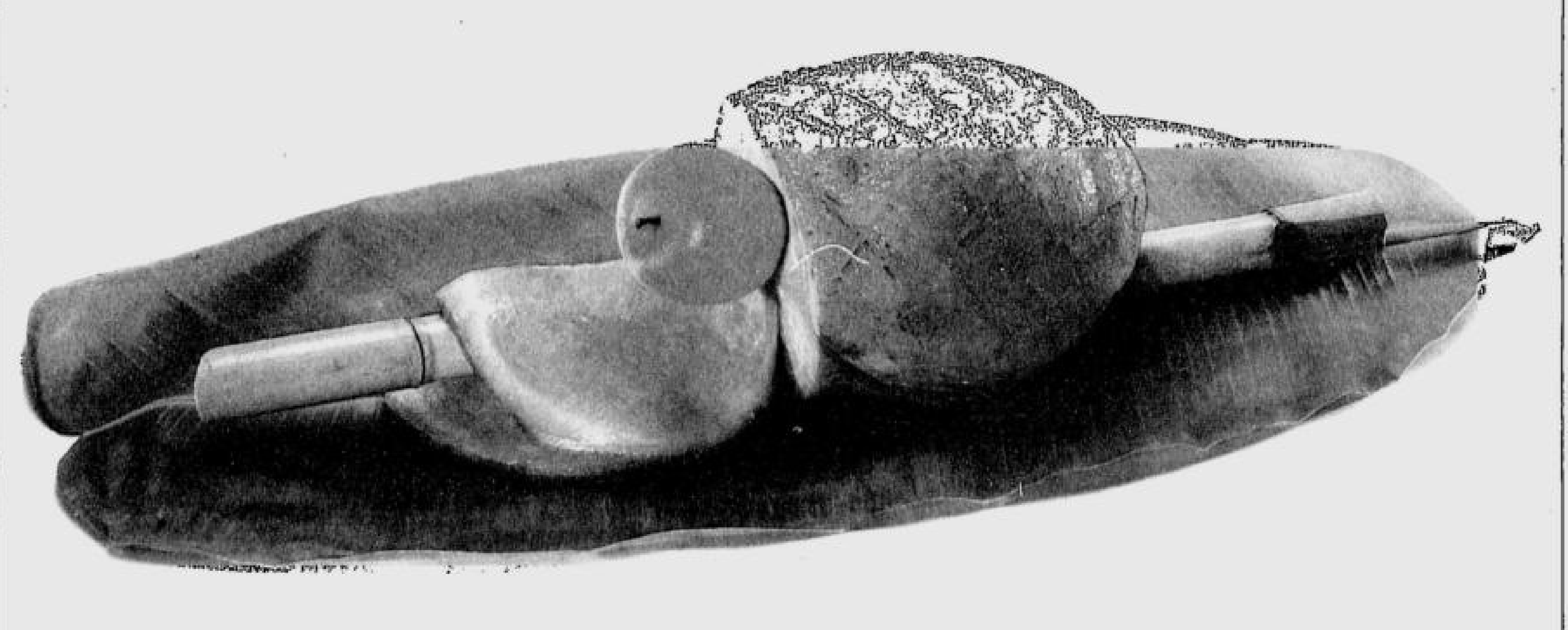
Whenever there's a big *handaan*, lechon immediately comes to mind. But when times are hard, many housewives are forced to forgo this crowd pleaser and content themselves with more regular fare. Or sometimes, the gathering isn't big enough to justify the cost of a lechon. That leaves the question of what dish becomes the centerpiece of the party table. The new alternative? Purefoods Fiesta Ham. For a few hundred pesos, you can serve an attractive, delicious dish that goes well with many other recipes. And because it's the traditional star of the Noche Buena feast, everyone loves the taste of Fiesta Ham.

But ham in August? Not something we usually think of. Counters Helene Z. Pontejos of the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, "Why not? When people serve Fiesta Ham during other special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries or despedidas, they get really excited. It's really a pleasant surprise."

But is there any other way to serve Fiesta Ham aside from the usual baked whole ham? You can glaze the ham and put it in a big silver platter. Surround this with fresh fruits e.g. grapes and orange slices. Then you can make your buffet table more interesting by carving or slicing the ham on the spot, a style that is a take off from elegant hotel or restaurant buffets.

It's unexpected, it's not traditional. But when you're looking for an alternative to lechon that's just as festive and welcome, maybe Purefoods Fiesta Ham is just the answer.

Happy Fiesta!



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LIFESTYLE

LA MEM
DU CINEMA

LIKE celebrities, just before the walk on La Croisette

Red carpet weekend in Cannes

A glimpse of Clint Eastwood, a view of Cote d'Azur and a taste of Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1990—if any place in the world can give you all that, Cannes can

By Roselyn Sugay-Helbling
Contributor

OUR ARRIVAL in Nice in May was greeted by the blue skies and blue sea that live up to the name Cote d'Azur. It is always nice to be back in France, but this year was extra special because it was the first time I was going to attend the Cannes Film Festival as an invited guest of Baron Philippe de Rothschild and as a companion to my mother, Tita Trillo of Anthony's Wines.

We checked into the Hotel Martinez

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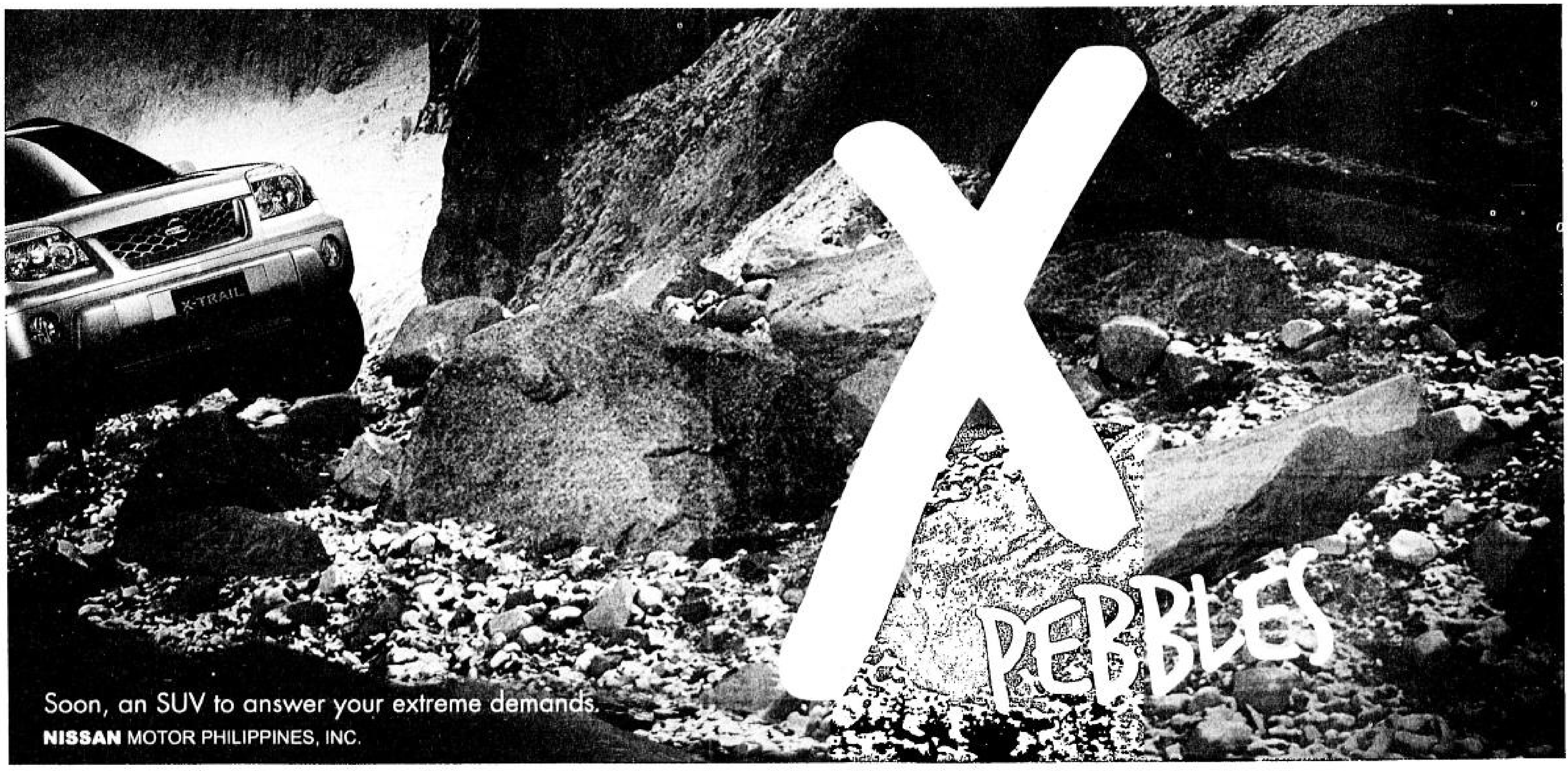

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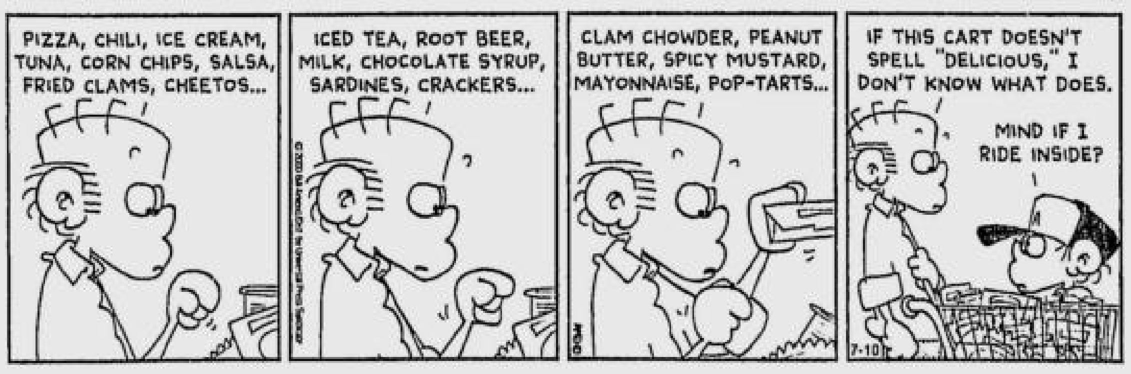
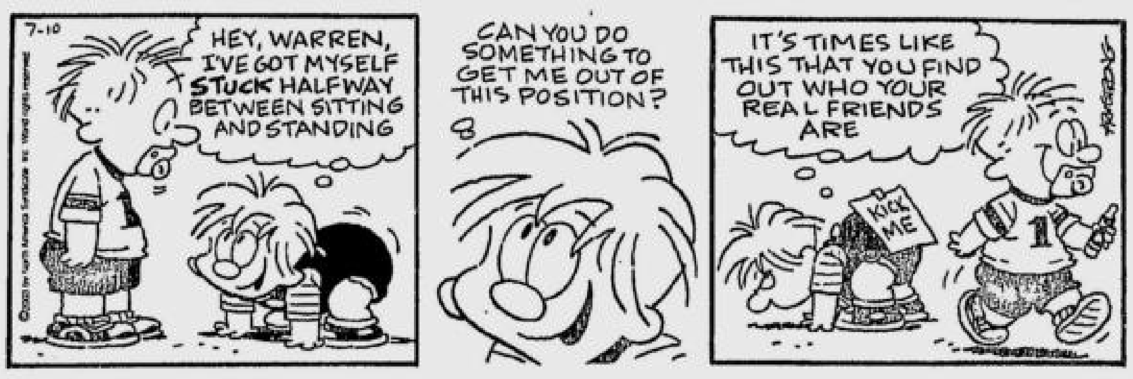
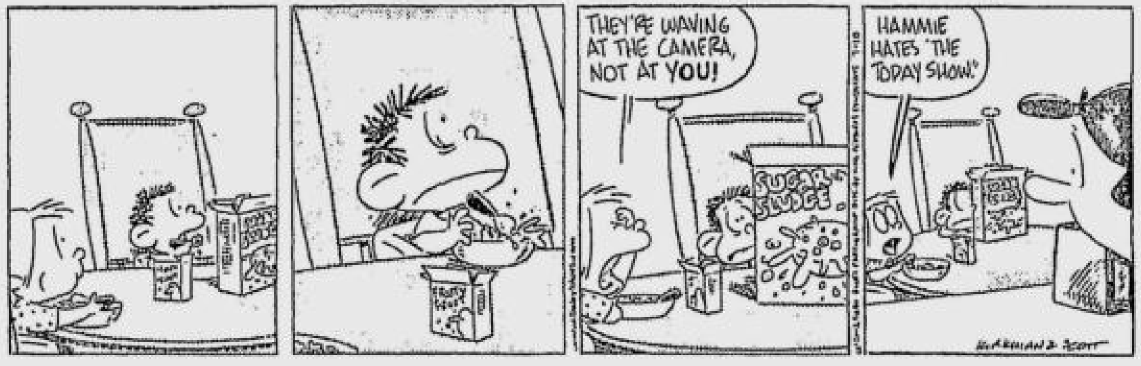
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


PIZZA, CHILI, ICE CREAM, TUNA, CORN CHIPS, SALSA, FRIED CLAMS, CHEETOS...
ICED TEA, ROOT BEER, MILK, CHOCOLATE SYRUP, SARDINES, CRACKERS...
CLAM CHOWDER, PEANUT BUTTER, SPICY MUSTARD, MAYONNAISE, POP-TARTS...
IF THIS CART DOESN'T SPELL "DELICIOUS," I DON'T KNOW WHAT DOES.
MIND IF I RIDE INSIDE?
7-10

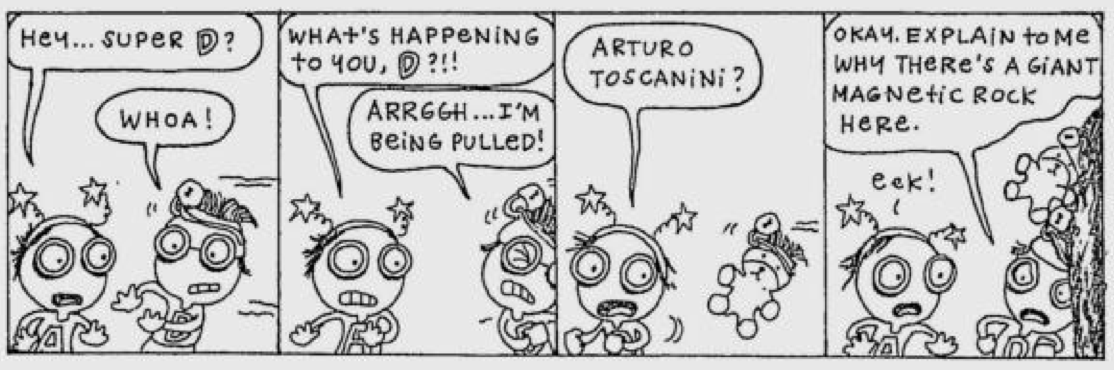
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


7-10
HEY, WARREN, I'VE GOT MYSELF STUCK HALFWAY BETWEEN SITTING AND STANDING
CAN YOU DO SOMETHING TO GET ME OUT OF THIS POSITION?
IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS THAT YOU FIND OUT WHO YOUR REAL FRIENDS ARE
KICK ME

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


THEY'RE WAVING AT THE CAMERA, NOT AT YOU!
HAMMIE HATES "THE TODAY SHOW."
SUGAR SLUDGE

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey... SUPER D?
WHOA!
WHAT'S HAPPENING to YOU, D?!!
ARRGGH...I'M BEING PULLED!
ARTURO TOSCANINI?
OKAY. EXPLAIN to ME WHY THERE'S A GIANT MAGNETIC ROCK HERE.
eek!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are patient and observant. Because of this you develop your own personal philosophy of life, which might be anti-establishment. You have strong visual skills and appreciate art and nature. You generally choose to work behind the scenes. If you work hard this year, you will achieve much that pleases you.
Birthdate of: Arthur Ashe, tennis player; James McNeil Whistler, painter; Marcel Proust, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have a strong desire to escape from your daily routine today. It's easy to feel bored with everyday life. You can escape through the mind as well as the body.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): No matter what happens today, your emotional experiences are more intense than usual. Memories from the past could make you suddenly possessive about something or someone. Chill out.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Conflicts with others might be emotional today. That's why you have to try very hard to be detached and objective. Naturally, this is easier said than done.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to turn your attention to home crafts, shopping for personal hygiene products, reorganizing things at home and matters pertaining to health. You want to improve things.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Because you feel romantically inclined today, you might develop a crush on somebody. Don't worry whether or not this is appropriate; it's a harmless, passing feeling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It occurs to you today just how much habit and past conditioning still control your life. We are all creatures of habit. Knowing this is an important step to changing it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Discussions with siblings and relatives are important to you today. You don't want to gloss over things in a superficial way. You want to talk about what really matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your feelings are all wrapped up with your possessions today. Whether it's about something you own or something you want to buy, you feel almost compulsive about it. Relax.

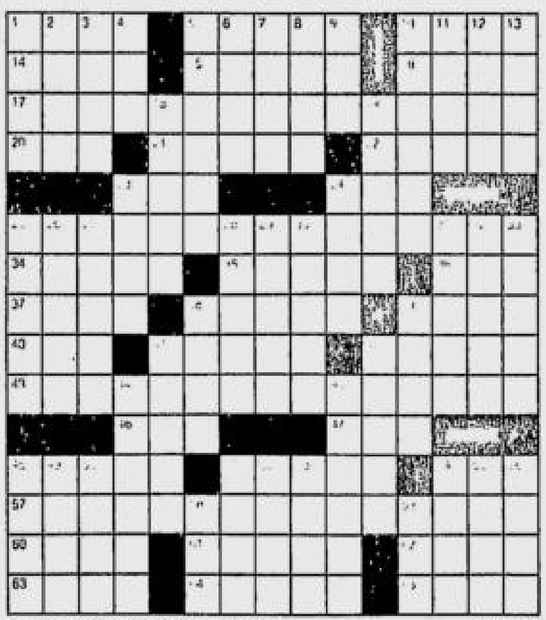
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have a strong need to relate to friends and loved ones. You want to feel liked and admired. Be careful you do not demand from others more than you yourself are willing to give.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It's all right if you feel tempted to withdraw from others today. We all need quiet time now and then. Today is that kind of day for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel unusually protective toward a friend today. In fact, you might even feel jealous if your friend pays attention to someone else.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Some aspect of your personal life might be on public display today. (Like an argument in an elevator!) Think twice before you call attention to yourself like this.

DAILY CROSSWORD

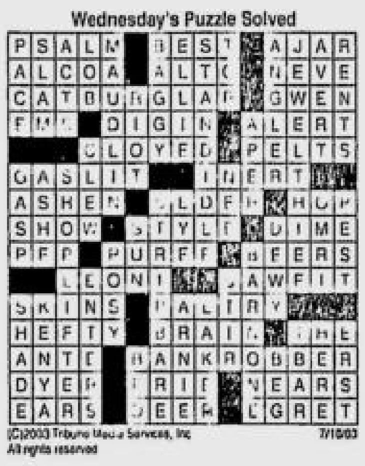


By Bruce Venske & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
7/10/03

ACROSS
1 Egomaniac's obsession
5 Core group
10 Rani's mate
14 Skater's jump
15 Orderly arrangement
16 Highly excited
17 Tea for three
20 Male heir
21 Shaped like Humpty Dumpty
22 Belushi biography
23 Caviar base
24 Old-time oath
25 Tea for four
34 Make less garbage, perhaps
35 Ream part
36 Take to court
37 Pennsylvania port
38 Religious sects
39 Analyst's fodder
40 Be indisposed
41 Semblance
42 Compare
43 Tea for three
46 Coal scuttle
47 Mine find
48 On the move
51 Half of Hispaniola
54 Help!
57 Tea for three
60 Policeman's route
61 Church instrument
62 Spend time indolently
63 Catch sight of
64 Plug projection
65 Had the answers

DOWN
1 Be mouthy
2 Montreal ballplayer
3 Mr. Trotsky
4 Follies man Ziegfeld
5 Human drumsticks?
6 Geometry calculation
7 Confound it!
8 Talk wildly
9 Optic orb
10 More risque
11 Lab medium
12 Bit of humor
13 Timeworn
18 Not even a mouse
19 Pilfer
23 Fragrant bloom
24 Pelts
25 __ havoc
26 Lofty abode
27 Wrong feeling
28 Outfit
29 Oklahoma city
30 Traffic cop, perhaps
31 Honshu seaport
32 External
33 Intended
38 Prompted
39 Dotted cubes
41 Renown
42 Like some poetry
44 XXX
45 Bearing
48 Notre Dame cleric
49 Dates
50 Snare
51 Mr. in Magdeburg
52 Jason's vessel
53 Lendl or Rodriguez
54 Distance across
55 Move like molasses
56 Ragout
58 Bribe
59 Wapiti

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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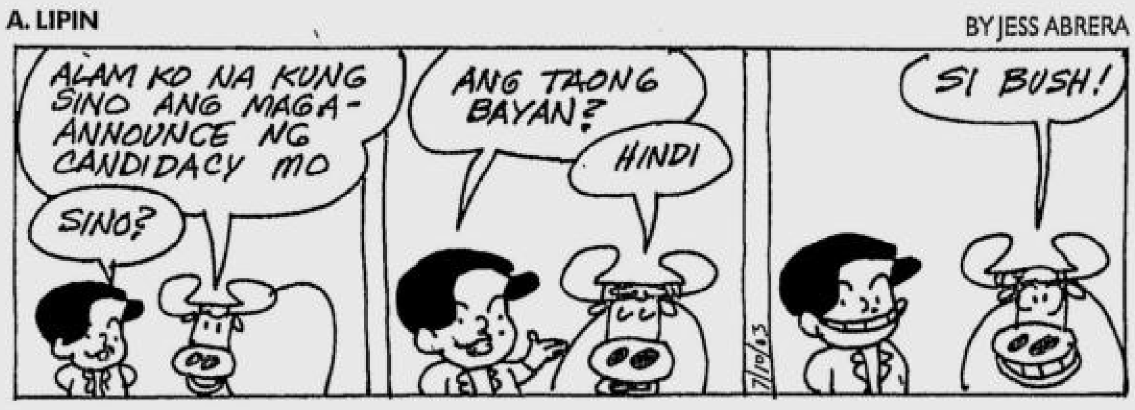
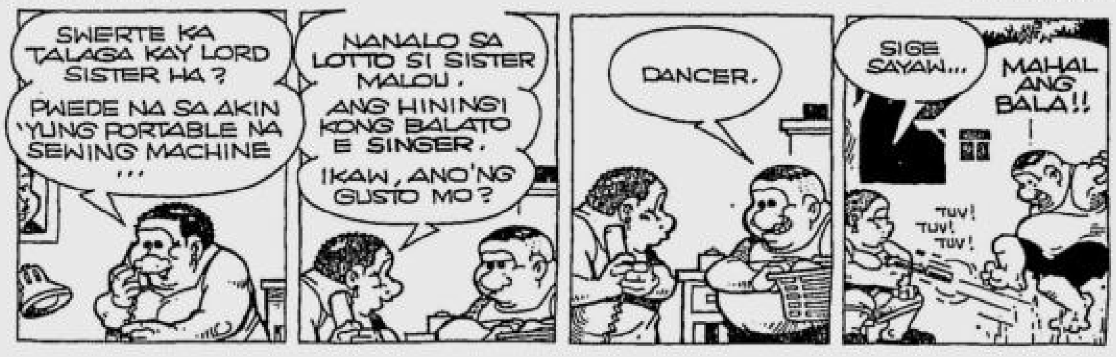
7/10/03

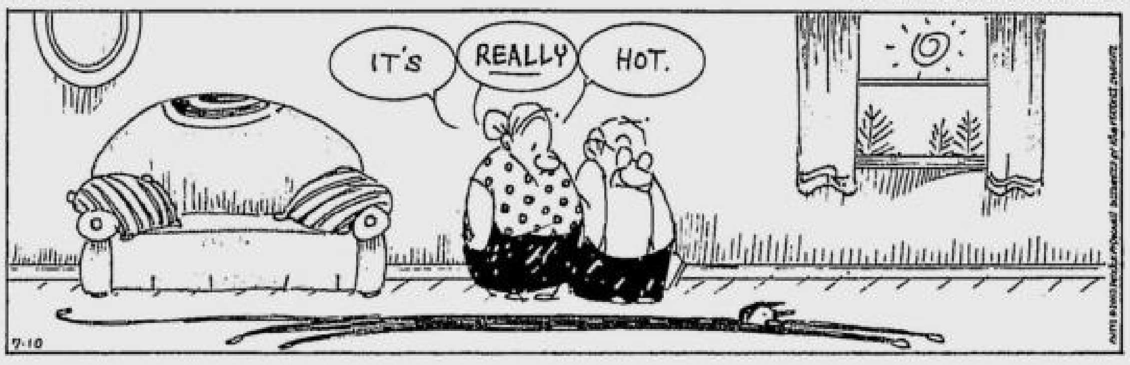
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


ALAM KO NA KUNG SINO ANG MAGA-ANNOUNCE NG CANDIDACY MO
SINO?
ANG TAONG BAYAN?
HINDI
7/10/03
SI BUSH!

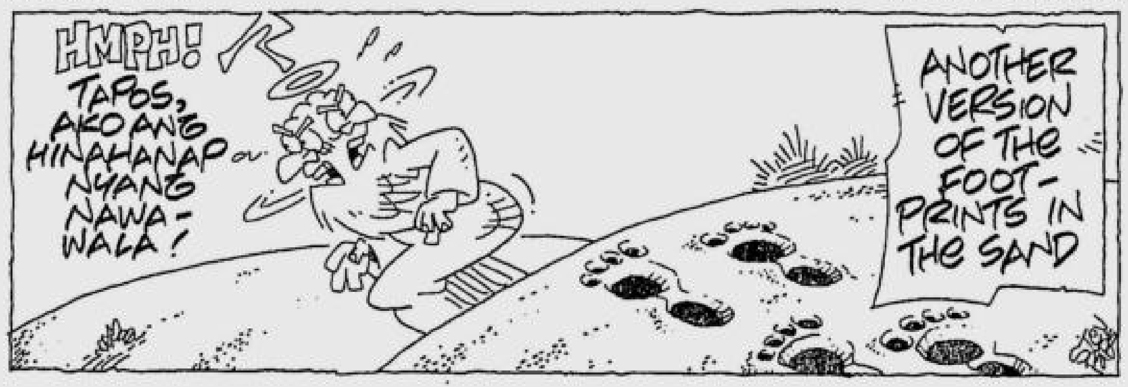
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


SWERTE KA TALAGA KAY LORD SISTER HA?
PWEDE NA SA AKIN 'YUNG PORTABLE NA SEWING MACHINE ...
NANALO SA LOTTO SI SISTER MALOU.
ANG HININGI KONG BALATO E SINGER.
IKAW, ANO'NG GUSTO MO?
DANCER.
SIGE SAYAW...
MAHAL ANG BALA!!
TUV! TUV! TUV!

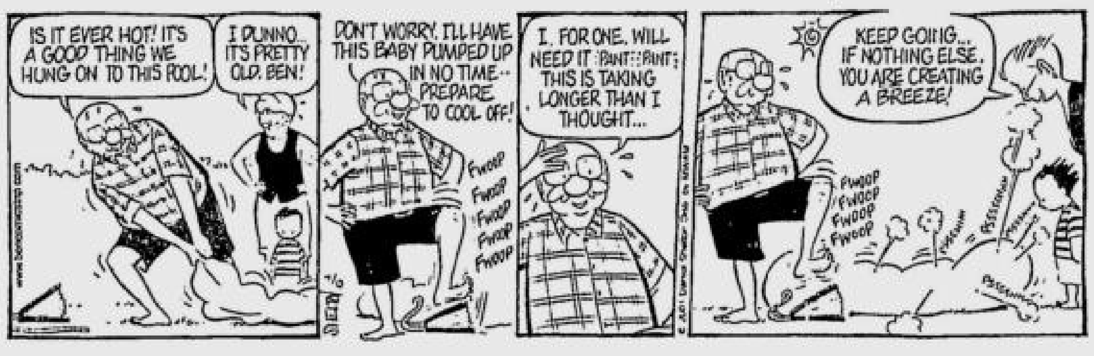
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S
REALLY
HOT.
7-10

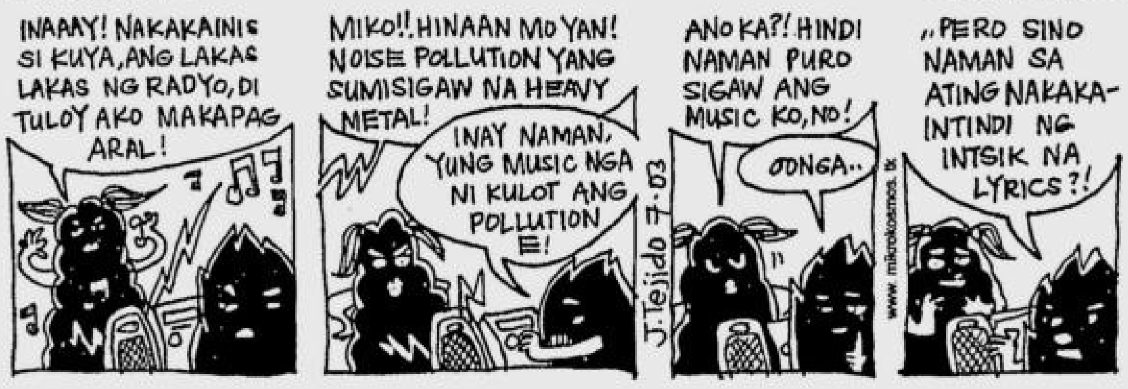
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HMPH!
TAPOS, AKO ANG HINAHANAP NYANG NAWA-WALA!
ANOTHER VERSION OF THE FOOT-PRINTS IN THE SAND

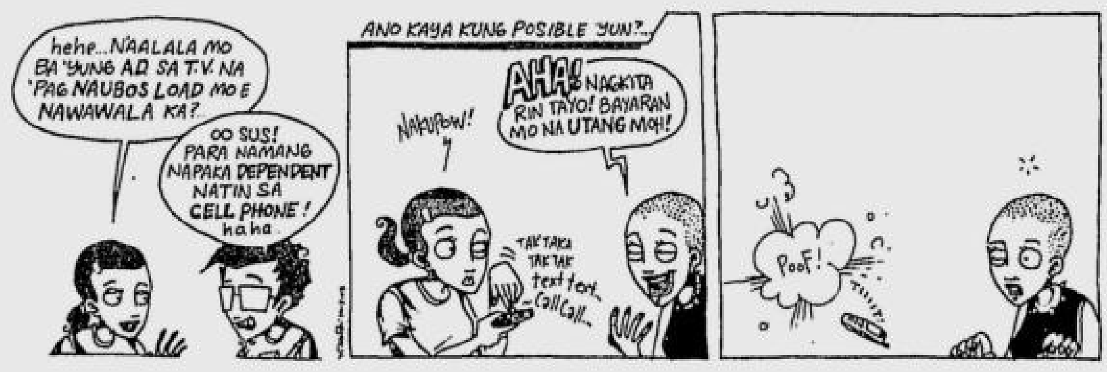
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


IS IT EVER HOT! IT'S A GOOD THING WE HUNG ON TO THIS POOL!
I DUNNO... IT'S PRETTY OLD, BEN!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL HAVE THIS BABY PUMPED UP IN NO TIME... PREPARE TO COOL OFF!
FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP
I, FOR ONE, WILL NEED IT :PANT::PANT: THIS IS TAKING LONGER THAN I THOUGHT...
KEEP GOING... IF NOTHING ELSE, YOU ARE CREATING A BREEZE!
FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP

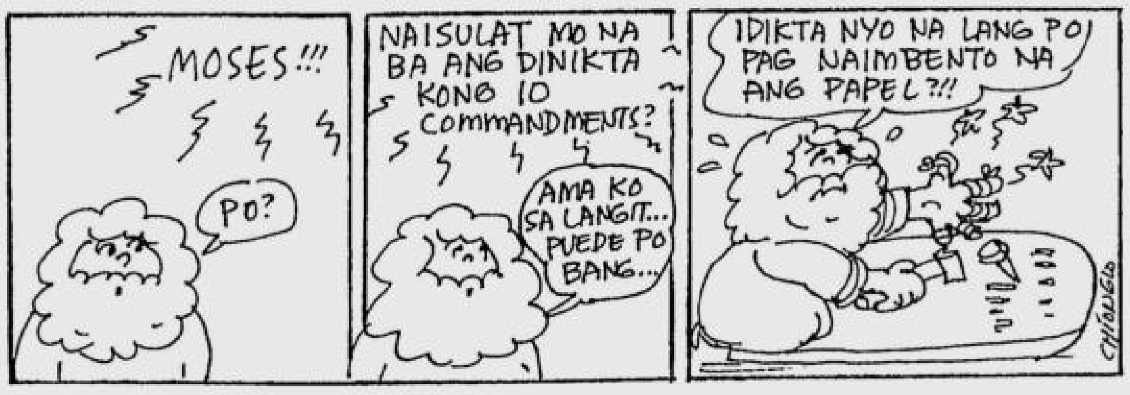
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAAAY! NAKAKAINIS SI KUYA, ANG LAKAS LAKAS NG RADYO, DI TULOY AKO MAKAPAG ARAL!
MIKO!! HINAAN MO YAN! NOISE POLLUTION YANG SUMISIGAW NA HEAVY METAL!
INAY NAMAN, YUNG MUSIC NGA NI KULOT ANG POLLUTION E!
J. Tejido 7-03
ANO KA?! HINDI NAMAN PURO SIGAW ANG MUSIC KO, NO!
OONGA..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..PERO SINO NAMAN SA ATING NAKAKA-INTINDI NG INTSIK NA LYRICS?!

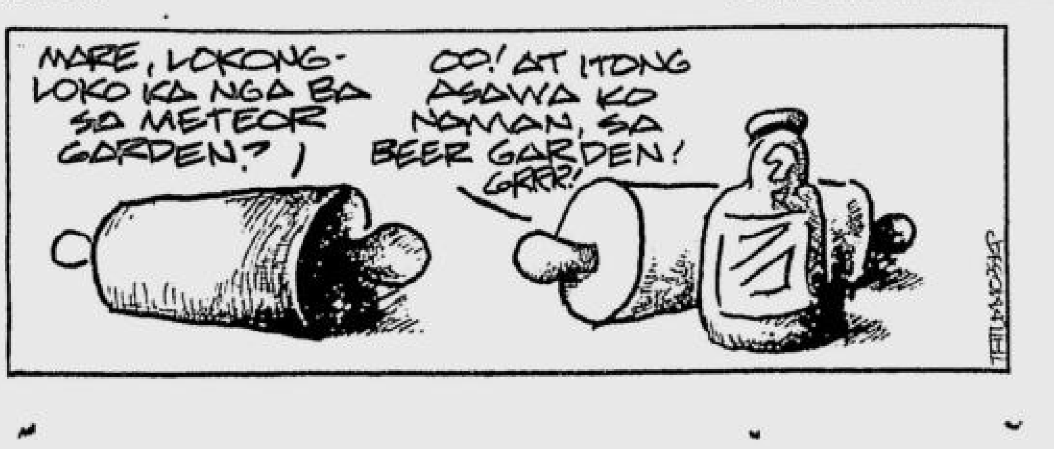
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe...NAALALA MO BA 'YUNG AD SA T.V. NA 'PAG NAUBOS LOAD MO E NAWAWALA KA?
OO SUS! PARA NAMANG NAPAKA DEPENDENT NATIN SA CELL PHONE! haha
ANO KAYA KUNG POSIBLE YUN?..
NAKUPOW!
AHA! NAGKITA RIN TAYO! BAYARAN MO NA UTANG MO!!
TAK TAKA TAK TAK text text call call..
PooF!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MOSES!!!
PO?
NAISULAT MO NA BA ANG DINIKTA KONG 10 COMMANDMENTS?
AMA KO SA LANGIT... PUEDE PO BANG...
IDIKTA NYO NA LANG PO PAG NAIMBENTO NA ANG PAPEL?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MARE, LOKONG-LOKO KA NGA BA SA METEOR GARDEN?
OO! AT ITONG ASAWA KO NAMAN, SA BEER GARDEN! GRRR!

Red carpet weekend in Cannes

From page D1

and changed for lunch, which was *al fresco* at the terrace and was the first opportunity for the whole group to get together. Jennifer Santi, Miss Mouton Cadet 2003, was there with Frances Lim, first runner-up, along with Boni and Rose Pimentel, proprietors of Ilustrado restaurant in Intramuros and our hosts from Baron Philippe de Rothschild (BPhR)—Thierry de Tourniel, Emmanuel Lebas and Anne Cusson.

During the long and enjoyable lunch, everyone had a taste of Mediterranean cuisine accompanied by Mouton Cadet Blanc and Rouge.

The first evening we had to be dressed and ready for the walk on La Croisette, Cannes' main promenade flanked by the sea on one side and the grand hotels on the other. The boulevard was closed to traffic to accommodate the many pedestrians ogling for a chance to see someone famous.

That evening, the paparazzi were in full force and were soon photographing Jennifer and Frances while some passersby even stopped to ask for their autographs. The closer we got, the more crowded it became, and before long, we were in front of the immense red carpet fronting the Palais du Festival.

The long walk up was exhilarating! Film soundtracks were played on the loudspeakers, everyone walking up was broadcast on the gigantic screen on the steps and inside the theater while the crowds cheered and the flashbulbs didn't stop.

At last we were seated inside the Grand Theatre Lumiere where all the main screenings for the films in competition were held. Sting and his wife, Trudie Styler, walked by and then we all stood up to welcome Clint Eastwood for the showing of his film "Mystic River." He was with his wife Frances Palmer and actors Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon and Laura Linney.

We certainly looked forward to our dinner at Fouquet's, the traditional French brasserie, at the Hotel Majestic. A restaurateur couple from Montreal and Olivier Lebret from BPhR's New York office joined us. I was seated on one side with the French contingent in a typical banquette table and facing these gigantic mirrors to enjoy the view of the other diners flooding in from across the street.

As it was our first dinner in France, I opted for the classic Cote de Boeuf (ordered *saignant*/rare) with Pommes Frites and Sauce Béarnaise that I gladly shared with Boni Pimentel. The rest of the group, obviously watching their figures, ordered salads and grilled Dover sole. Baron'arques, a red wine from the Languedoc region, complemented the meal.

The fantastic desserts were very tempting, but I skipped them for a double espresso to beat the jetlag. Dinner finished past midnight, and the walk home that evening was relaxing. We even saw the Cinema de la Plage where nightly screenings are held open-air and right on the beach.

The next morning, my mother and I were the first ones awake to enjoy our croissants with large *café au laits* and the view of the sea at the terrace. Next on the agenda was a scenic drive around the winding cliff roads overlooking Cannes and a trip to a perfume factory in Grasse. The morning went quickly with all the sniffing and shopping at Fragonard, and we then continued to our gourmet destination of the day.

Provençal cuisine

Le Mas Candille is a 39-room hotel housed in an 18th-century farmhouse high up in the medieval town of Mougins. The hotel restaurant, Candille, is known for its Provençal cuisine concentrating on fish and seafood, plus what the local markets have in season. The day we were there, as the weather was warm and clear, we decided to lunch at the terrace with the flower-filled valley of Grasse below us.

BARON'ARQUES

FLAVORS of Provençe in glazed pigeon and a 1999 Baron'arques from the Lanquedoc region

BOTTLES of Chateau Mouton 1990 uncorked and waiting to be served

A *Menu du Marche* was the special of the day—a four-course set menu incorporating local herbs, spices and fresh ingredients from the market in nearby Forville. Self-taught chef Serge Gouloumes enticed us with the wonderful scents and flavors of Provençe—thyme, rosemary, basil, tarragon and lots and lots of dark-green, spicy extra virgin olive oil.

We all started our meal with an *amuse bouche* (the first little bite to delight the appetite) of poached crayfish on a cold puree of watercress, which was refreshing and flavorful. I then had roast veal sweetbreads accompanied by a morel cream sauce—the most heavenly mix of warm soft sweetbreads with earthy mushrooms.

The main course was a simple pan-fried St. Pierre (John Dory) accompanied by a balsamic vinegar glaze. The first two courses were served with a dry Sauvignon Blanc followed by 1999 Baron'arques to complement the main courses.

A small palate cleanser of red berries and crushed pink champagne ice followed before they wheeled out the large trolley of fresh cow, sheep and goat's cheeses. I opted for the smelly but wonderfully ripe Chaumes and a sliver of some hard sheep's cheese with some fresh fruit chutney, pine nuts and walnut bread.

For dessert, we let the pastry chef, Patrick Pomares, choose for each of us, which we then passed around so everyone could try his creations.

I was presented with what I thought was the typical molten chocolate cake but was pleasantly surprised to find out that this version was spiced with chili and served with a jelly of red and yellow peppers plus a red pepper/strawberry sorbet. It was the first time I ever tried anything like it. The combination of flavors was original and worked very well with the bitter chocolate.

Espressos and petite fours were served on the patio. Although we were ready to linger and enjoy the view, we realized that it was half past four! Lunch had lasted three-and-a-half hours, and we barely had any time left to get ready for that evening's film.

That evening, there would be a screening of the last film in competition before the closing ceremony and the awarding of the Palme d'Or the following night. We arrived at the Palais du Festival and were joined by the managing director of Baron Philippe de Rothschild, Xavier de Eizaguirre.

The screening that evening was "The Tulse Luper Suitcases, Part I - The Moab Story." With a title like that, we had no idea what to expect, and all we knew was that the film was directed by the avant-garde Welsh filmmaker Peter Greenaway.

The finale to our Cannes weekend was a special dinner at the adjacent television studio where, every year, Baron Philippe de Rothschild has a special terrace open to all the actors and actresses, including the jury, and serve all their wines during the the festival.

We were treated to a fantastic panoramic view of Cannes, including Vieux Cannes, the old part of the city, and the sea. There was even a slide show projected on the tower of the old town where famous sayings of people in the film industry were flashed all night long.

Paisley and peonies

True to the winery's classic French style, the tables were decorated simply but elegantly with a paisley print cloth and large pink peonies and roses. Each place setting had a little gift—a glass stopper for wine barrels engraved with their logo and the detailed menu and wines for the evening. We couldn't wait to sample the wines as we saw the many bottles uncorked and left to air out for three hours.

The menu was simple—a cold lobster and crab melangé, lamb loin and cannelloni of chanterelle mushrooms, the always-present cheese platter and some fresh fruit, but the wines that evening were exceptional.

There was Mouton Cadet Reserve Graves Sec 2001 and Baron'arques 1999 followed by Chateau d'Armailhac 1996, Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1990 (with a label designed by the artist Francis Bacon) and Chateau Coutet 1995 to accompany the dessert. The Mouton Rothschild was excellent and can still be enjoyed 10 years from now. We lingered over coffee and chocolates plus cigars and *eaux de vie* for the men.

Again the evening ended late, and as we walked slowly back to our hotel enjoying the view, the weather and the lively atmosphere of the Croisette, we savored the fitting end to our gastronomic, luxurious and star-studded weekend in Cannes.

THE FRENCH Baker GM Johnlu G. Koa prepares to assemble tiramisu, assisted by one of his staff and Deco Centrum's Mitos Juarez.

Cooking demo for moms

THE FRENCH Baker and Magnolia recently joined working moms in a weekend affair dubbed "Beads, Bake and Body" at the Deco Centrum to share kitchen and cooking tips.

French Baker,the 2003 Asia Pacific Excellence Awardee for Outstanding Bakeshop by the National Consumer Affairs Foundation and the Asia Pacific Awards Council, shared its secrets to making tiramisu, using its very own recipe and ready-baked Ladyfinger sponge cakes plus Magnolia Cream Cheese and Nestlé All-Purpose Cream to give it a full and creamy taste.

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Beware of text scams and their variants

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Rafael Buenaventura started warning the public last October about a scam victimizing cellular phone users.

Today, unfortunately, folks are still being duped. And, sad to say, the scam has many variants now.

Basically, the scam goes this way: The would-be victim receives a text message announcing he has won in a raffle sponsored by BSP (or Pagcor or the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) with prizes ranging from P1 million to P2 million.

If the victim responds and calls a telephone number given by the sender, an alleged Governor Buenaventura will reply. The victim will be instructed to first pay a 10-percent withholding tax before he can claim his prize.

There are new versions. One scam was reported recently to BSP by a victim from the province who said he was duped into depositing P20,000 (tax for prize money) to a certain bank account number. That was the last time he saw his money.

Another version of the text scam involves a supposed raffle of pre-paid card PIN numbers. Victims are told to send the PIN codes of newly-purchased cellphone cards to join the raffle and get a chance to win P1.5 million to P2.5 million.

After sending the code, the victim would get a text message saying he won. But to claim the prize, the "winner" is asked to pay the sponsor 10 percent of the prize money for withholding tax.

A victim who complained to BSP admitted that he bought P3,000 worth of pre-paid cards hoping it would increase his chances of winning. Needless to say, unsuspecting victims who divulged their PIN codes were not aware that the very same prepaid cards were being used by the scam artists to send text messages to other would-be preys.

BSP corporate affairs director Fe M. de la Cruz warned consumers anew that the scam is still rampant. She advised victims to report their experience to the Anti-Money Laundering Council at tel. no. 536-6085 or to the corporate affairs office at 523-4832.

By the way, we apologize to Fe M. de la Cruz for writing that she is the director of the Department of Trade and Industry-ConsumerNet in our column last week.

Praises to Abenson

Vic Chin Jr. of Ding Hao Chinese Cuisine (vchinjr@mozcom.com) wrote to express his appreciation of Abenson-Waltermart's action, which paved the way for the replacement of the defective product he bought at the store.

We also thank Abenson representative Joy Rosales and Asahi company for the prompt action on the complaint we published last week.

Query from reader

An overseas worker is asking for help. He wrote: "Back when I was in the Philippines, my former girlfriend bought a cellular phone with a pager plan that was registered under my name. I found out later that she had incurred astronomically high charges for the use of the cellular phone. To this day, the dues have not been paid, and the cellular phone company is coming after me. My question is, since I can prove that I was away when those charges were incurred, would I still be liable?"

Here's the opinion of our friends at Globe: The overseas worker, unfortunately, is liable for all the charges incurred by his former girlfriend, since the account is under his name and is covered by a contract between him and the cellular phone company.

He could have avoided the adverse consequences had he made efforts at the outset to transfer the phone ownership to his friend's name.

Under the circumstances, the best that he could hope for is to negotiate with the phone company, under good faith, for a reasonable schedule of payment.

Readers' comments

A bank worker who requested anonymity wrote: "Why are we being overcharged by credit card companies for foreign currency purchases? I checked the applicable dollar-peso exchange rates and was quite shocked that the difference was around 20 percent more than the bank rate. And to think that bank rates are not really cheap! This is unfair, not only to people who travel and use their cards to shop, but also to local folks who buy things online and charge them to their credit card."

> Ignore text messages saying you are a winner but asking you to pay something to claim your prize

Complaint from an aunt: "A few weeks ago, my niece went to the Technological University of the Philippines to inquire about courses and fees. The guard at the gate refused her entry saying, 'enrollment is over.' She was not enrolling, just getting the information so she would not be late for the next semester."

Kris Ablan of Makati City wrote: "Car parks in the Makati mall areas usually provide for a time window (during which) customers who (stay) briefly in the malls (are not charged). The time, however, is too short. In Powerplant, for example, the window is 10 minutes. But in Glorietta, it's only five minutes. In the name of goodwill, why won't car parks at malls allow a longer window, say 15 minutes at least?

"Is there a way to rationalize the parking fees? Make it less than the usual P35? Say, I purchased goods worth P500 and consumed food worth P200. It's only fair to get a discounted (if not free) parking fee, when a customer can present his receipt at the exit."

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph or lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

MANGO WINE WINS AWARD
Don Roberto's Mango Wine (green-dry and sweet-yellow) won recently first prize or the gold award in the prestigious Finat International Label Competition 2003 in Vienna, Austria.
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Catering seminar

CATERERS, restaurateurs and others planning to start or manage a catering business are invited by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) to its Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop 2-6 p.m., July 14-23, at Sari-Sari Cafeteria, Eastwood City Walk, Libis, QC.

Reservations are on a first-come-first-served basis at 787-6370 or 0916-8226053. Only 20 participants will be accepted.

The eight-day training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements; planning the menu, equipment and staffing; cost control; room arrangements; napkin folding and table skirting. Trainers are foodservice consultants and professors of hotel and restaurant management who are award-winning coaches of the student division in Chefs on Parade.

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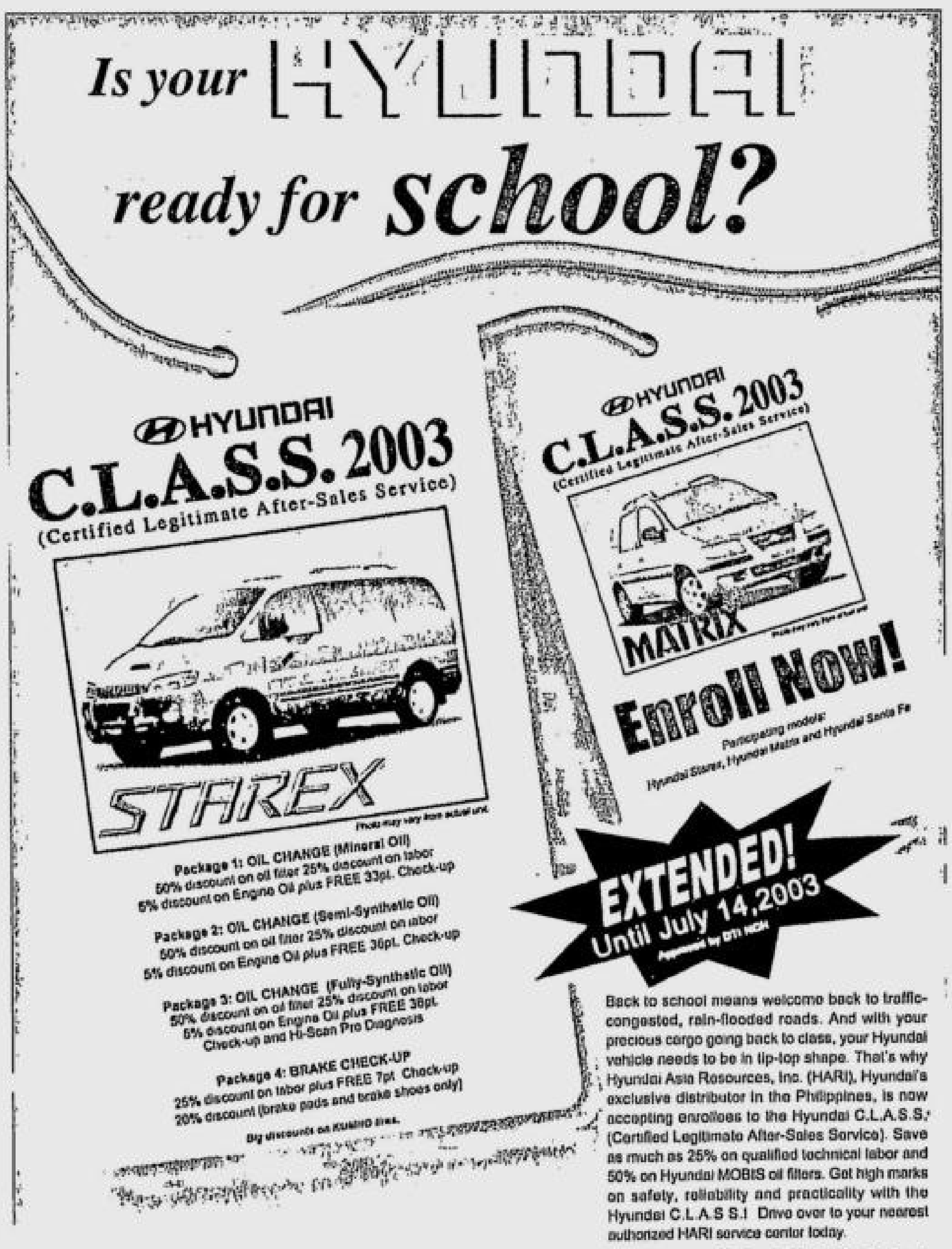
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